

CLAPPER INSISTS SPYING ON ALLIES COMMONPLACE

JULIE PACE
LARA JAKES
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The top U.S. intelligence director on Tuesday defended spying on foreign allies as necessary and said such scrutiny of America's friends — and vice versa — is commonplace.

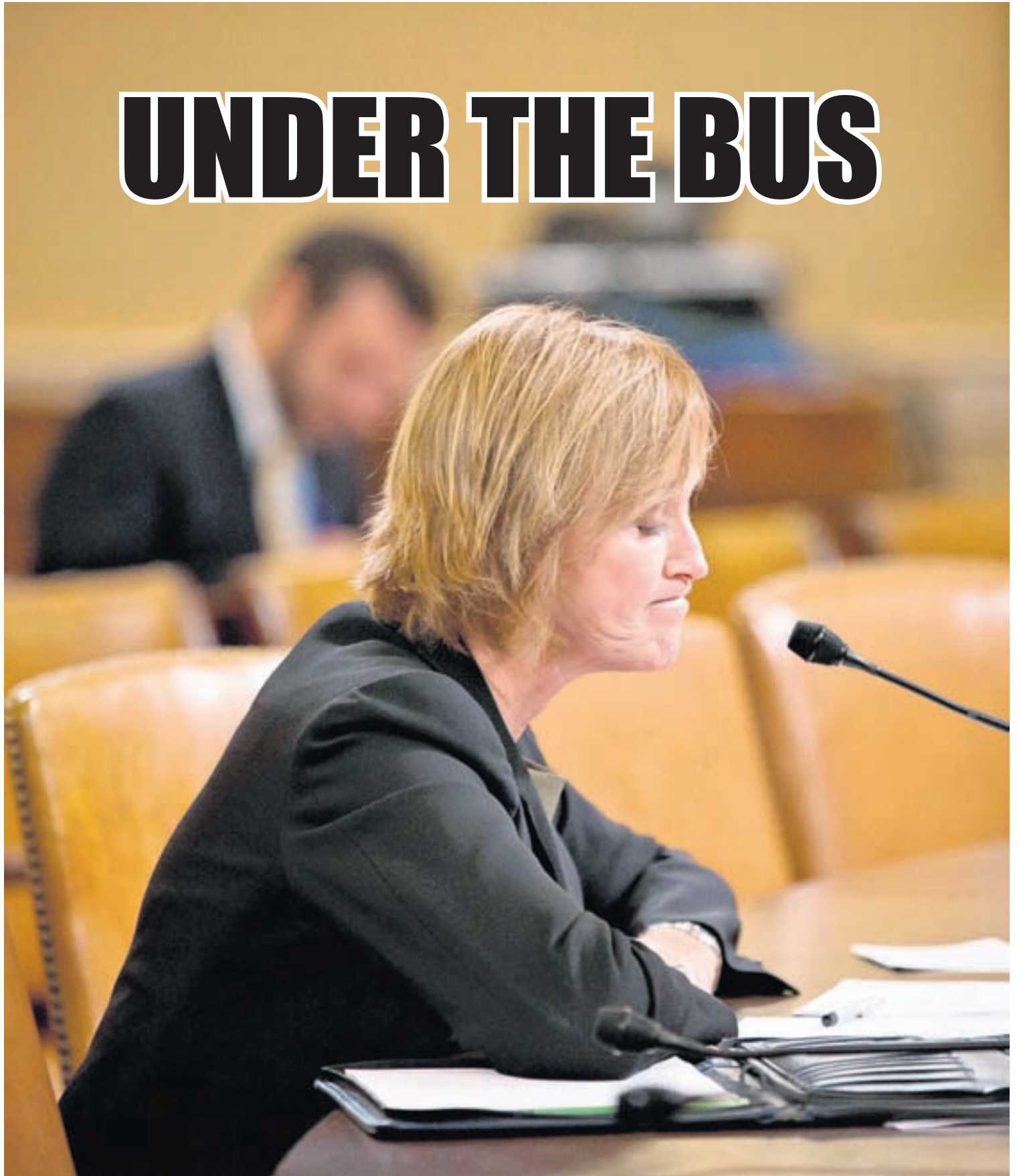


Director of National Intelligence James Clapper pauses while testifying on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2013.
(AP Photo/ Evan Vucci)

Another official said the collection of phone records that prompted outrage across the Atlantic actually was conducted with the help of European governments. Top intelligence officials testified that news reports that the National Security Agency had swept up millions of phone records in France, Spain and elsewhere were inaccurate and reflected a misunderstanding of "metadata" that was in fact collected by NATO allies and shared with the United States. The nation's post-Sept. 11, 2001 surveillance programs are coming under increased criticism at home and abroad, capped by recent revelations that the NSA monitored German Chancellor Angela Merkel's cellphone and those of up to 34 other world leaders.

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UNDER THE BUS



Marilyn Tavenner, the administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, pauses while testifying on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2013, before the House Ways and Means Committee hearing on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Obama official apologizes for healthcare website

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WASHINGTON - Marilyn B. Tavenner, the official in charge of President Barack Obama's health insurance marketplace, apologized Tuesday to millions of

Americans who have been frustrated in trying to buy insurance under the new health care law. "I want to apologize to you that the website is not working as well as it should," Tavenner

said, in remarks addressed to the public during testimony before the House Ways Means Committee. Tavenner, the administrator of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid

Services, said that "nearly 700,000 applications have been submitted to the federal and state marketplaces" in the last four weeks.

Continued on Page 3

Netherlands museums find 139 likely Nazi-looted artworks and treasures

TOBY STERLING
Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — A major investigation into whether art hanging in Dutch museums may have once been Nazi loot has yielded an unexpectedly large result: 139 suspect works, including ones by masters like Matisse, Klee and Kandinsky. The bombshell announcement Tuesday by the museums raises the question of why it has taken them

one of the country's top tourist draws. All Dutch museums that hold art from before the war participated in the review. They have identified names of 20 definite looting victims and linked them with 61 of the works. The museums said they are in the process of contacting or seeking the heirs, including those of Jewish art dealer Albert Stern, the deceased owner of the Matisse.

"Child in a Landscape" had changed hands multiple times over decades before the latest Dutch investigation revealed it had belonged to a Jewish woman and was sold by a bank known for collaborating with the Nazis during the war. The Dutch are not the first to undertake such a review in the wake of a 1998 international conference on looted art in Washington that found previous



This photo provided by Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam on Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2013, shows the 1921 painting *Odalisque* by Henri Matisse. Dutch museums have identified 139 pieces of art, including dozens of paintings, one by Matisse and many by Dutch painters of varying renown such as Impressionist Isaac Israels, as likely having been taken forcibly from Jewish owners.
(AP Photo/Van Abbemuseum)

nearly 70 years to examine their collections in a systematic way after World War II — and suggests that even more looted art may emerge from other countries that haven't yet done so. "These objects are either thought or known to have been looted, confiscated or sold under duress," said Siebe Weide, director of the Netherlands Museums Association. He said returning them is "both a moral obligation and one that we have taken upon ourselves." The tainted art involved 69 paintings, including French artist Henri Matisse's 1921 "Odalisque" painting of a half-nude reclining woman, which hangs at Amsterdam's Stedelijk Museum,

The museum had purchased the Matisse painting from Lieuwe Bangma, Stern's Dutch representative, in 1941. But Stern was its owner before the war and the Bangma family is known to have given aid to his granddaughters during the war. Other paintings included works by old Dutch masters such as Jacob Cuyp, Impressionist Isaac Israels and Modernists like Wassily Kandinsky. Other pieces uncovered in the investigation included drawings — one by Paul Klee — sculptures, antiquities and Jewish ceremonial objects. One painting by Cuyp had been purchased in good faith by the Museum of Dordrecht in 2002. The 1627 painting "Shepherdess with

attempts to return looted art didn't go far enough. Attendees from 44 nations proclaimed the Washington Principles, declaring that "every effort should be made to publicize art that is found to have been confiscated by the Nazis" and have it returned. Many American and British museums have already conducted thorough investigations that have led to the return of looted art, though nothing has been done on a nationwide basis. In Germany, a government-led, nationwide investigation is underway. The Dutch investigation was the second in the Netherlands, with the first one in 2006 focusing only on works that were bought and sold during the war. □

CARIBBEAN NEWS BRIEFS

Ex-premier of T&C to be extradited

PROVIDENCIALES, Turks & Caicos Islands (AP) — Officials in the Turks & Caicos Islands say a Brazilian court has ordered the extradition of a former premier accused of corruption while leader of the tiny British Caribbean territory. Michael Misick was arrested in Brazil last year on a warrant issued by Interpol. He faces trial in the Turks & Caicos on charges of corruption. Misick was released from custody in February but couldn't leave Brazil and still faced extradition to his homeland. The islands' attorney general says a Brazilian court decision to extradite the ex-premier back to the territory was made Tuesday. □

St. Lucia ruling on death in custody

CASTRIES, St. Lucia (AP) — The official pathologist for the small Caribbean country of St. Lucia has ruled that a young man died from asphyxia in a police lockup, but offered no further clarification on his death, officials said Tuesday. Police report they found 22-year-old Shakadan Daniel hanging in a cell last week in a station in the eastern village of Micoud. He was arrested on warrants of escaping custody, assaulting an officer and damaging property. But the dead man's relatives insist he would never have killed himself and have accused police of strangling him. The deaths occurred during a security initiative called "Operation Restore Confidence". □

Puerto Rico town building a theater

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico officials are using a \$4.85 million federal loan to help build a water park and theater in the northwest tourist town of Rincon. U.S. territory Resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi says the water park will be built near the Friendship Plaza. He said Tuesday that the theater will be part of an 8,000-square-foot (743-square-meter) recreational center that will be built at the site of the old Rincon Theater. It will include a boardwalk. Municipal officials said they did not know when construction of the projects would begin. Rincon is surfing and whale-watching spot that attracts thousands of tourists a year. □

Korean alleges assault at BVI airport

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — The British Virgin Islands is investigating allegations that a customs officer assaulted a South Korean visitor at the territory's international airport. Customs Commissioner Wade Smith said the accused officer has been placed on leave. He declined to provide more details. The BVI Beacon newspaper says the visitor was a reporter for South Korea's Channel A who claims he and a colleague were improperly denied entry after arriving on a flight from Puerto Rico. The journalists told the newspaper they intended to vacation on the islands but also hoped to meet sources for a story they planned on the territory's financial services sector. □

T&C detaining 237 Haitian migrants

PROVIDENCIALES, Turks & Caicos Islands (AP) — Officials in the Turks & Caicos Islands have detained 237 Haitians suspected of trying to illegally enter the British Caribbean territory. The islands' border control ministry says the 203 men and 34 women were traveling on two sloops that were intercepted Tuesday in local waters. Police escorted the Haitians to Providenciales, the tiny British territory's most populous island. □

Obama official apologizes for healthcare website

Continued from front

But she repeatedly refused to say how many of those people had actually enrolled in health insurance plans since the federal and state marketplaces, or exchanges, opened Oct. 1. "That number will not be available until mid-November," Tavenner said. "We expect the initial number to be small." The chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Dave Camp, R-Mich., said that at least 146,000 Michigan residents had recently received notices that their current insurance policies would be canceled because the coverage did not meet requirements of the new health care law. "In fact," Camp said, "based on what little information the administration has disclosed, it turns out that more people have received cancellation notices for their health care plans this month than have enrolled in the exchanges." Tavenner said that

existing insurance policies were, in many cases, inferior to the new policies they could get. In compliance with the health care law, she said, new policies will provide more benefits and pay a larger share of medical costs than many existing policies. Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Texas, asked Tavenner what she would tell people who were losing their current insurance but could not get coverage on the balky federal website. "My constituents are frightened," Brady said. "They are being forced out of health care plans they like. The clock is ticking. The federal website is broken. Their health care isn't a glitch." Tavenner said consumers could seek help from a telephone call center established by the government. To enroll, she said, "there are more methods than just the website." Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., pushed back against Republican attacks on the law and on the administration. □



House Ways and Means Committee member Rep. Bill Pascrell, D-N.J., right, stands up and shouts across the room at Republican lawmakers during a heated debate about problems with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2013, on Capitol Hill in Washington. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Intel chief: US spies on allies, they do it, too



Code Pink protestors hold up signs as James Clapper, right, leaves a House Intelligence committee hearing for a recess at the Capitol in Washington, Oct. 29, 2013. Top intelligence officials defended their operations before a House committee as they faced growing criticism and calls for a Congressional review of the nation's surveillance efforts.

(Gabriella Demczuk//The New York Times)

Continued from front

Those reports relied on documents provided by former NSA analyst Edward Snowden.

Congressional leaders who have been staunch supporters of the NSA programs are now saying it is time for a close examination. The White House said Tuesday that President Barack Obama had ordered a full review of the programs and was considering changes.

National Intelligence Director James Clapper defended the secret surveillance that sweeps up phone records and emails of millions of Americans as vital to protecting against terrorists. He played down European allies' complaints about spying on their leaders, saying the allies do it, too. "That's a hardy perennial," Clapper told a House intelligence committee

hearing. He said during his 50 years working in intelligence it was "a basic tenet" to collect, whether by spying on communications or through other sources, confidential information about foreign leaders that reveals "if what they're saying gels with what's actually going on."

Committee Chairman Mike Rogers asked whether allies had conducted the same type of espionage against U.S. leaders. "Absolutely," Clapper responded.

Asked about collection of foreign phone records, the NSA's director, Gen. Keith Alexander, testified that the U.S. did not collect European records alone, as was reported over the past week to an outcry of criticism across Europe.

Alexander said the U.S. was given data by NATO partners as part of a program to protect military interests. □

Mystery barges on US coasts set tech world abuzz



An unknown structure rests on top of a barge in Portland Harbor, in Portland, Maine. The mysterious floating structure is one of three that have sparked online speculation. The secretive structures, two in San Francisco and one in Portland, Maine, are registered with a Delaware corporation as BAL0001, BAL0010, BAL0011 and BAL0100.

(AP Photo/Patrick Ouellette)

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Three mysterious structures that appeared on the water in California and Maine have the tech world abuzz. Each of the boxy structures sits atop a barge and looks like a four-story building made up of metal boxes. Little is known about them, but they appear to have been registered by someone familiar with geek speak — and with a sense of humor. The structures are registered with a Delaware corporation as BAL0001, BAL0010, BAL0011 and BAL0100. In binary code used in computing, the numbers spell out “one,” “two,” “three” and “four.” Currently, Nos. 1 and 2 are on the water in San Francisco and No. 3 is in Portland Harbor. Online speculation has focused on Google Inc., which has a patent for a

floating data center that uses ocean water for cooling. Neither Google nor the company outfitting the vessel shed any light on the matter Tuesday. Sharon Gaudin, a writer for Computerworld, told the Portland Press Herald that the way the vessels were named suggested a technology origin or use. “That’s a little telling,” she said. Also, the Delaware company to which they’re registered is called Buy and Large, a likely joking reference to “Buy N Large,” the fictional mega-corporation in the 2008 film “WALL-E.” While the floating structures may one day have a high-tech purpose, their construction appears to be fairly low tech. They consist of shipping containers welded together and placed atop barges. □

Jobs’ home gets historic designation

LOS ALTOS, California (AP) — The Silicon Valley home where Apple co-founder Steve Jobs grew up and built some of his first computers is now on the city’s list of historic properties. The historical commission in the city of Los Altos voted unanimously for the historic designation on Monday night, the Palo Alto Daily News reported. Any proposed renovations to the modest, ranch-style home now require additional review. The home, where Jobs and his foster parents moved in 1968, is currently owned by Patricia Jobs, Steve Jobs’ sister. The commission didn’t need her permission for the designation, although she could appeal it to the city council. Zachary Dahl, a senior planner with the city, said

Patricia Jobs requested corrections to the city’s evaluation of the property, but then didn’t respond when it was sent to her for review. “So I’m assuming that was an affirmative because I have had multiple communications with her over the past several weeks,” Dahl said. Steve Jobs, with help from his sister and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, built the first 100 Apple 1 computers at the home, according to the city’s evaluation. Fifty were sold to a shop in neighboring Mountain View for \$500 each. Steve Jobs also wooed some of Apple’s first investors and in 1976, established the first partnership for Apple at the home. The company later relocated to nearby Cupertino. □

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Senators bicker over stand your ground laws

LAURIE KELLMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The mother of a 17-year-old boy shot by a suspicious neighbor mother told a

ence to statistics which, he said, show that blacks cite stand your ground laws at least as often as whites. Race and politics were unmistakably woven into the

Martin's mother told the panel that she attended the hearing so senators can "at least put a face with what has happened with this tragedy."

"I just wanted to come here to...let you know how important it is that we amend this stand your ground because it certainly did not work in my case," Fulton said, speaking without consulting prepared remarks. "The person that shot and killed my son is walking the streets today. This law does not work." Lucia Holman McBath, the mother of Jordan Russell Davis, implored the Senate to resolve the nation's debate. Her son, 17-year old Jordan, was shot and killed nearly a year ago when Michael David Dunn, 46, allegedly opened fire on a Dodge Durango with four teenagers inside after complaining of their loud music and saying he saw a gun and thus a threat. □



Witnesses, from left, Sybrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin; Ronald S. Sullivan, Jr., Clinical Professor of Law, Director of the Criminal Justice Institute, Harvard Law School; David LaBahn, Association of Prosecuting Attorneys president and CEO; Ilya Shapiro, Senior Fellow in Constitutional Studies at Cato Institute; John R. Lott, Jr., president, Crime Prevention Research Center of Swarthmore, Pa.; and Lucia McBath of Atlanta, Ga.; are sworn in on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2013, prior to testifying before a Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing on so-called "stand your ground laws."

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

panel of senators Tuesday that state stand your ground self-defense laws do not work and must be amended, reviving the politically charged gun control issue a year ahead of the 2014 congressional elections.

But little besides politics emerged from the session, held in the Senate's made-for-television hearing room. Democrats who hold majority power in the Senate and are trying to keep it supported by call by Sybrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin. Republicans, led by Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, a possible presidential contender in 2016, said the matter should be left to the states that passed the laws. "The states are doing quite well...without our interference," Rep. Louie Gohmert testified to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Said Cruz: "This is not about politicking. This is not about inflaming racial tensions. This is about the right of everyone to protect themselves and protect their families." Cruz made refer-

ence to statistics which, he said, show that blacks cite stand your ground laws at least as often as whites. Race and politics were unmistakably woven into the event and in the broader public policy debate. There's little willingness in Congress to weigh in on the laws of 22 states that have some form of the policy. These laws generally cancel a person's duty to retreat in the face of a serious physical attack.

Members of Congress are busily engaged in their re-election efforts for next year's voting, with 35 seats at stake in the Senate, all 435 seats in the Republican-controlled House and the majorities of both chambers hanging in the balance. Gun control is a politically divisive issue, more so in the wake of mass shootings in Newtown, Connecticut, the Washington Navy Yard and more.

The 2012 shooting death of Martin, black and unarmed, and the acquittal this year of neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman stirred racial tensions and sparked debate over stand your ground laws in Florida and at least 21 other states.

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Blurry view of economy complicates Fed's task

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A hazy picture of the U.S. economy has emerged from the most recent snapshots of retail sales, housing, manufacturing, the job market and the confidence of consumers. The figures reflect higher borrowing costs, slower hir-

economy is this fog of uncertainty," said Mark Vitner, an economist at Wells Fargo.

One major factor behind the uncertainty: Congress and the White House agreed on Oct. 16 to re-open the government — but only until Jan. 15, when a new deal must be reached. That raises

"data dependent."

Yet most of the economic data that will be released in coming weeks will be distorted by the government shutdown. For example, the October jobs report, due Nov. 8, may show a rise in the unemployment rate only because of the temporary layoff of government workers and con-

pointed to a weak economy, though there are a few bright spots:

— Consumer confidence fell to a six month low in October, according to the private Conference Board. The partial shutdown made Americans more pessimistic about future growth and hiring.

Lynn Franco, director of economic indicators at the board, said the "temporary nature" of the budget agreement means that confidence could fluctuate in coming months.

— Retail sales rose modestly in September outside of auto sales, the Commerce Department said. Auto sales dropped 2.2 percent, the most in almost a year. But that was mostly because of a calendar quirk that shifted Labor Day weekend sales to August. Sales rose in most other areas, including restaurants, electronic and appliance stores, and sporting goods stores, a sign Americans were willing to spend on items that weren't essential.

— Higher interest rates and rising home prices discouraged many Americans from buying existing homes in September.

A measure of signed contracts reached its lowest level in nine months. The National Association of Realtors' index of pending home sales fell below the level it had reached a year earlier.

— Orders for most long-lasting U.S. factory goods dropped last month as businesses cut back on spending. The decline suggested that businesses weren't confident about the economy. And U.S. factories only slightly boosted their output in September, mostly because auto production rose. □

Al Sharpton and Barneys NY CEO discuss profiling

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Civil rights activist Al Sharpton met with the CEO of Barneys New York on Tuesday to discuss allegations of racial profiling after two black customers said they lawfully purchased items at the high-end retailer but were detained by police. The New York state attorney general's office demanded its own meeting with Barneys and also Macy's, where a black actor said he was stopped because of his race while shopping. Two customers accused Barneys of discrimination last week after they said they had lawfully purchased items but were detained by police on suspicion of credit card fraud. "We had a very candid and open meeting today to begin a dialogue," Sharpton said after the private meeting with Barneys CEO Mark Lee at Sharpton's National Action Network office in Harlem.

The issue of racial profiling in stores has received much attention over the years. Oprah Winfrey complained recently that a Swiss clerk did not think she could afford a \$38,000 handbag, and even President Barack Obama has said he was once followed in stores. Lee said Barneys' own initial investigation showed no employees were at fault in the two incidents, but he said the retailer does not tolerate discrimination and wants "to be part of the solution" to racial profiling. In a lawsuit filed last week, 19-year-old Trayon Christian said that after he bought a Ferragamo belt at Barneys New York, he was accosted by undercover city police officers. □



Ben Bernanke, chairman of the Federal Reserve, reads a newspaper in Washington. A hazy picture of the U.S. economy has emerged from the most recent snapshots, and the Federal Reserve is trying to assess this at their policy meeting this week.

(AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

ing and rising uncertainty just before much of the government shut down Oct. 1 — all trends that the Federal Reserve is trying to assess at a policy meeting this week.

Taken together, they portray an economy that was stumbling even before the shutdown, which further slowed growth.

Still, many Americans have managed to keep up their purchases in recent weeks. Their spending has raised hopes that if Congress can reach a long-term budget agreement in coming months, economic growth will pick up.

"One of the things that's really holding back the

the threat of another shutdown.

Nor is it clear when the Fed will begin to pull back on its stimulus for the economy. And the sloppy rollout of the Obama administration's health care program has added to the reluctance of many small businesses to hire, Vitner said. All this has made the Fed's task of evaluating the economy even harder than usual. The Fed is considering when to slow its \$85 billion in monthly bond purchases. Those purchases are intended to keep borrowing rates low to spur growth. Chairman Ben Bernanke has noted that the Fed's policy decisions are

tractors.

"This is a very difficult time for the Fed," Vitner says. "The data is not all that clear, and there are a lot of structural shifts in the economy."

Those shifts include an aging workforce, which means more older workers are retiring and dropping out of the work force. Their exodus has artificially lowered the unemployment rate, making that key gauge of the economy less reliable. People who are out of work but have stopped looking for a job aren't counted as unemployed.

The most recent reports the Fed will consider have

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US Financial Front: American consumer confidence tanks on government shutdown

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Americans' confidence in the economy fell this month to the lowest level since April, as many worried about the impact of a 16-day partial government shutdown. The decline could weigh on spending and economic growth.

The Conference Board said Tuesday that its index of consumer confidence dropped to 71.2 in October, down from 80.2 the previous month. September's figure was revised slightly higher.

Consumers became particularly pessimistic in their outlook on the economy six months from now, while their assessment of current economic conditions declined by much less. They also expect less hiring in the months ahead. Consumers' confidence is closely watched because their spending accounts for 70 percent of economic activity.

Americans became more confident in the spring as job gains were healthy and economic growth improved. The Conference Board's measure reached 82.1 in June, the highest in 5 ½ years. That's still below the reading of 90 that is consistent with a healthy economy.

Confidence has dropped in three of the four months since June. The shutdown already caused a drop this month in the University of Michigan's measure of consumer sentiment. Americans made more negative references to the federal government's impact on the economy in October than at any time in the 50-year history of the survey, the university said.

Falling confidence can cause Americans to spend less, which would slow the economic growth. But sometimes consumers spend more, even when they say they are less confident.

Weaker job growth is also weighing on consumers' outlook. Employers added an average of just 143,000 jobs a month from July through September. That's down from 182,000 a month in April through June and 207,000 in the first three months of the year.

Sluggish spending is likely to weigh on economic growth. Most economists predict growth slowed in the July-September quarter to an annual rate of about 1.5 percent to 2 percent, down from a 2.5 percent rate in the April-June quarter. And the shutdown is likely to keep growth at a tepid pace for the final three months of the year. □



A shopper browses at a Timberland store in Skokie, Ill. The Conference Board released the Consumer Confidence Index for October on Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2013.

(AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

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4 French taken captive in Niger free after 3 years

ELAINE GANLEY
RUKMINI CALLIMACHI
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Four Frenchmen taken hostage by al-Qaida extremists in Niger have been released after three years of captivity and a French-led military intervention in the region that weakened the Islamic radicals.

French President Francois Hollande announced the release Tuesday and credited Niger President Mahamadou Issoufou, who later appeared on television with the hostages. The men, who worked for the Areva nuclear company when taken, had long beards and some wore turbans and brown robes. They did not speak.

Niger Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Bazoum told The Associated Press that the hostages — Pierre Legrand, Thierry Dol, Marc Feret and Daniel Larribe — were freed in neighboring Mali and taken to Niamey, Niger's capital.

Officials gave few details on the release, but the

French defense minister said there was no assault and that France did not pay a ransom. "There was

Jean-Yves Le Drian told France's TF 1 television.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius and Le

said the freed captives are "in good shape" now that "the nightmare is over." He added that the group

tember 2010 by the North African wing of al-Qaida and spirited from their dormitories in the town of Arlit, Niger, where Areva, a French state-run nuclear company, operates a uranium mine.

Officials had long suspected the hostages were being held in northern Mali, a harsh desert area where there is no tree cover and the blazing midday heat can soar to 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit). Previous hostages have recounted being bitten by scorpions.

The question of whether ransom was paid to procure their release immediately rose to the fore.

Hollande had made clear his government would not pay ransoms to free French captives. That sparked an outcry from families of French captives in West Africa, where hostage-taking has been a lucrative business for radicals. Fear was redoubled when in January France invaded Mali as part of an anti-terror offensive. □



Relatives and friends gathered in Paris, France, to honor French hostages that were kidnapped in Niger three years ago. President Francois Hollande says the four Frenchmen taken hostage by Islamic extremists in Niger have been released. (AP Photo/Remy de la Mauviniere)

an initiative taken by the network" of the Niger president "which allowed the liberation without a clash,"

Drian traveled to Niamey to bring the four Frenchmen home. Speaking from there on French TV, Fabius

would reach home by late Wednesday morning.

The four freed Frenchmen were captured in Sep-

Libyan gunmen steal over \$50 million from bank van

ESAM MOHAMED
Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Gunmen ambushed a Libyan bank van and made away with over \$50 million on a highway east of Tripoli, officials said Tuesday. The brazen heist underscores the weakness of the central government in the North African country, where authorities are struggling to control unruly militias.

A security official told The Associated Press that the Central Bank van had no guards accompanying it when was ambushed near the city of Sirte late Monday. The official news agency LANA, quoting a

bank official who was with the van, said that a single carload of guards was escorting the money on its way from Sirte's airport to the local bank branch, but they were unable to resist the 10 attackers.

The money was a mix of foreign currency and Libyan dinars. LANA said that \$40 million was in dinars and at least \$12 million in foreign currency without specifying which. The official said the foreign currency consisted of \$10 million in U.S. dollars and between 2 and 5 million euros (\$2.7 to \$7 million).

The two accounts could not immediately be recon-

ciled. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to media.

LANA quoted Col. Khaled al-Akari, a security official in Sirte, as saying troops had closed the entries and exits of the city to try to apprehend the thieves. Sirte was a main support base for longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi, and he made his final stand there before he was captured and killed in October 2011.

Libya lacks a centralized police force and a strong national army, so the government has to rely on militias who were part of the

war against Gadhafi. But they often have conflicting political loyalties.

Assassinations and revenge killings are commonplace, fueled by longstanding grudges dating back to Gadhafi's rule, regional and tribal conflicts, and tensions between hard-line Islamists and other groups. Much of the violence has centered on Benghazi, a city in the east that was the birthplace of the rebellion. On Tuesday in Benghazi, gunmen opened fire on a protest sit-in made up of men belonging to the tribe of a controversial Gadhafi official who joined the rebels before being as-

sassinated, killing two and wounding three, security officials said.

The motive of the attack was not clear. The protesters were demanding to know the results of the investigation into the 2011 killing of Abdel-Fatah Younis, who was Gadhafi's interior minister before defecting to the rebel side to help command the uprising.

Younis is considered by some to be a hero of the war against Gadhafi but some ex-rebels are hostile toward anyone who had ties to the regime, no matter what they did during the 2011 war. □



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Panama official: 32 of 35 NKorean crew to go free

KATHIA MARTINEZ
Associated Press

PANAMA CITY (AP) — All but three of the 35 North Korean crew members detained when authorities found that their ship was carrying weapons from Cuba will be released from prison and allowed to return to their country, a Panamanian official said. The official said the captain, his assistant and a political emissary still face charges. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not allowed to discuss the case. The crew members are accused of illegal possession of weapons, which carries a maximum penalty of 12 years in prison. North Korea is demanding Panama return the 10,000 tons of sugar the ship was carrying when it was seized July 15 because it's needed to make candy for an end of the year celebration for North Korean children, he said. "The sugar is valued at \$5 million," he said. Another captain, an assistant and a mechanic are expected to arrive from North Korea in the coming days to help sail the ship back to Asia, he added. The ship was headed from Cuba to North Korea when it was seized by authorities, who said they suspected it carried drugs. A Panamanian official said the ship carried two Cuban fighter jets in perfect condition, contradicting Cuba's explanation that the cargo included "obsolete defensive weapons." □

Dancer says was Concordia captain's lover

FRANCES D'EMILIO
Associated Press

GROSSETO, Italy (AP) — A Moldovan dancer who had been on the bridge of the Costa Concordia cruise ship when it crashed into a reef off Italy electrified the captain's manslaughter trial Tuesday by testifying reluctantly that the two were lovers. Domnica Cemortan, 26, only made the admission after being warned by the judge that she risked criminal charges if she didn't answer the question. The ship's former captain, Francesco Schettino, is the sole defendant on trial in the Tuscan town of Grosseto. He is charged with manslaughter for the 32 people who died in the crash, with causing the shipwreck on the night of Jan. 13, 2012, and with abandoning ship while many passengers and crew were still aboard. He risks 20 years in jail if convicted. Earlier in the day, ship maître d' Antonello Tievoli testified that 10 days before the crash, he had asked Schettino for a favor: Would the captain sail close to the island of Giglio during the Mediterranean cruise because the crewman's family lived there? Heads in the courtroom turned Tuesday when Cemortan strode in wearing high-heeled pumps and a figure-hugging black top and skirt. She was questioned both by prosecutors and lawyers for the survivors who have attached civil suits to the manslaughter trial. Testifying through a trans-

lator, Cemortan said she had worked on the Concordia for three weeks in December 2011. She then re-boarded the ship in January 2012 as a non-paying passenger several hours

comment was a joke, but the judge made it part of the trial record.

As she testified, Schettino, who is married, sat at the defense table making a series of classic Italian hand



Domnica Cemortan, from Moldavia, leaves the converted Teatro Moderno theater after testifying in a hearing in the trial of Captain Francesco Schettino, in Grosseto, Italy, Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2013.

(AP Photo/Giacomo Aprili)

before the crash near Giglio. "When you are someone's lover no one asks you for any explanations" about not having a ticket, she told the court. Some in the courtroom gasped at the bold remark. Cemortan insisted her

gestures indicating incredulity. Cemortan repeatedly declined to answer whether she is or had been romantically involved with Schettino, relenting only after Judge Giovanni Puliatti warned her that she risked criminal charges.

Tievoli, the maître d', said on Jan. 6, 2012, exactly a week before the collision, the cruise ship sailed closer than usual to Giglio and he thanked Schettino for the courtesy. Still, Tievoli recalled that Schettino was disappointed with that route and ordered his No. 2 officer to devise an even closer approach to the tiny island the following fateful week. When the Concordia rammed into the reef the night of Jan. 13, gashing its hull and quickly taking on water, many of the passengers were enjoying a gala supper. Cemortan said she had dined at the captain's table with him, and he told crew to slow down the ship so he could have dessert before taking the helm near Giglio. They both were on the bridge at the time of the crash. After it, Cemortan testified that she dashed into Schettino's private cabin to change out of her dinner outfit into more practical clothes. She noticed his laptop in the room and took it because she thought it was important. She said she gave it to him when she saw him on Giglio before dawn, after they both had taken separate lifeboats to the island. Cemortan told the court Schettino told her immediately after the crash to take good care of a high-ranking crew member who is the brother of the former director-general of Costa Crociere SpA, the Italian cruise line. □

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Argentina media growth limits ruled constitutional

MICHAEL WARREN
Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Argentina's Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that the government has a responsibility to prevent media companies from growing so large that they dominate public discourse, upholding a law that could demolish the nation's largest media group, a leading opponent of President Cristina Fernandez. The approval of a 2009 law aiming to reshape Argentina's broadcast media industry is a huge victory for the Fernandez government, which has campaigned for years to weaken Grupo Clarin. The group will now have to sell off many of the lucrative ca-

ble TV licenses that give it nationwide reach and provide the income that funds Clarin's other properties. "As ideas and information represent goods that are distributed through the media, if there is concentration, only some ideas or some information will reach the public, seriously harming public debate and the plurality of opinions," the court said. "All of this demands the active protection of the State." Grupo Clarin is one of Latin America's largest media companies, with interests in newspapers, magazines, a nationwide cable television network and broadcast TV and radio stations. The Buenos Aires stock exchange suspended trading



A vendor sits in his newspaper stand in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2013. Argentina's Supreme Court approved the country's four-year-old broadcast media law on Tuesday, deciding that it's constitutional to force private news media monopolies to break themselves apart if they exceed government-imposed audience limits. The historic ruling is a huge victory for Fernandez and a bitter defeat for Grupo Clarin, which has been a leading voice against her administration.

(AP Photo/Natasha Pisarenko)

in the company's shares after they dropped nearly 6 percent due to the ruling. Martin Sabbatella, appointed by Fernandez to regulate broadcast media, called the ruling "a triumph of democracy." Grupo Clarin said it respects the decision and will follow it, but is analyzing

whether to apply to international courts. "The most concrete proof of the true intention of this government with this law has been the enormous official colonization of media companies since its passage," the company statement said. "Today more than 80 percent of the

broadcast media respond directly or indirectly to the authorities." The law was pushed through Congress by the Fernandez government with overwhelming support from other groups across the political spectrum, and replaces a hated dictatorship-era media law. □

Chile poll: Bachelet likely to win vote

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Former President Michelle Bachelet has a big lead ahead of Chile's Nov. 17 presidential election and a poll released Tuesday suggests she'll win in the first round and avoid a runoff. Top polling company CEP said that 47 percent of those surveyed said they'd vote for center-leftist Bachelet if the elections were held this Sunday. Likely votes from uncommitted or undeclared voters would push her past 50

percent, eliminating the need for a Dec. 15 runoff. Her closest rival is conservative Evelyn Matthei, backed by 14 percent. Independent candidate Franco Parisi came in third in the poll with 10 percent. CEP polled 1,437 people between Sept. 13 and Oct. 14. The margin of error is 3 percentage points. Bachelet and Matthei were childhood friends whose fathers became top generals on opposite sides of the

country's deep political divide. Bachelet's father supported socialist President Salvador Allende until a 1973 coup. Matthei's father ran the military school where Gen. Alberto Bachelet was tortured to death for refusing to line up behind dictator Augusto Pinochet. Bachelet, who served as Chile's first female president from 2006 to 2010, vows to use a second term to fight the country's sharp income inequality. □

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Five-hour gun battle leaves 128 dead in Nigeria

ADAMU ADAMU
MICHELLE FAUL

Associated Press

DAMATURU, Nigeria (AP) —

A 5-hour battle between Islamic extremists and army troops in the capital of Yobe state killed at least 127 people, all but two combatants, according to reports from army and police officers that raise doubts about military claims that they have the upper hand in Nigeria's fight to halt an Islamic uprising in the northeast.

The stench of rotting corpses from the morgue hung over Damaturu Specialist Hospital on Tuesday, where a reporter counted 31 bodies identified as those of extremists.

Details still are trickling in about the attack, which militants began at dusk Thursday on an army barracks 20 kilometers (12 miles) outside Damaturu, the capital, where they overpowered the soldiers, seized an armored car, looted the armory and set the barracks ablaze with improvised explosive devices.

The reports were given to Yobe state Gov. Ibrahim Gaidam by military officers as he toured the destroyed sites with a heavily armed escort on Monday. Journalists accompanying the tour heard the reports.

The attackers then moved down the main road into the city where they rammed the armored car

through the gates to the headquarters of the Police Anti-Terrorist Squad. There, they burned down three buildings.

While some of the extremists exchanged fire with the police, the armored car and others in all-terrain pickup trucks and on foot went on to shoot up and set fire to the police Criminal Investigation Department offices and four other police offices scattered across the city until they arrived at the Mobile Police Base, where the armored car caught fire and was abandoned.

The militants went to the hospital where they looted drugs and bandages as the medical staff fled in terror, according to doctors at the hospital.

This account differs from the official version of events that extremists attacked an army checkpoint along the road from Damaturu to Benisheikh — where militants have killed hundreds of civilians in recent weeks — at around 3 a.m. on Friday. A "firefight ensued and the insurgents were effectively neutralized," according to a statement Monday from the army spokesman in Damaturu, Ibrahim Attahiru. He said 70 militants were killed there.

"Fleeing insurgents" then "regrouped to carry out attacks on Damaturu town," Attahiru said. Security forces killed another 25 insur-

gents in the city, he said. Col. A. O. Abdullahi told the governor that 22 soldiers were killed in the attacks.

base. A reporter who visited the hospital mortuary on Sunday saw 17 bodies in police uniform.

On Monday, the morgue

caught up in the fighting also is uncertain, with local newspapers reporting that dozens of travelers were caught in crossfire. A



People inspect burnt weapons following an attack by Boko Haram in in Damaturu, Nigeria. Nigerian military and hospital reports indicate a 5-hour-long battle between Islamic extremists and troops in the capital of Nigeria's Yobe state last Thursday and Friday killed at least 90 militants, 23 soldiers and eight police officers.

(AP Photo)

A police officer who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak about the incident said eight police officers were killed in the shootout at the mobile

held only the bodies of 31 suspected insurgents. Nigeria's military regularly inflates the numbers of militants killed and downplays its own toll.

The number of civilians

civil servant was shot Saturday by soldiers who accused him of breaking the hastily announced curfew. He died in the hospital on Monday, according to witnesses. □

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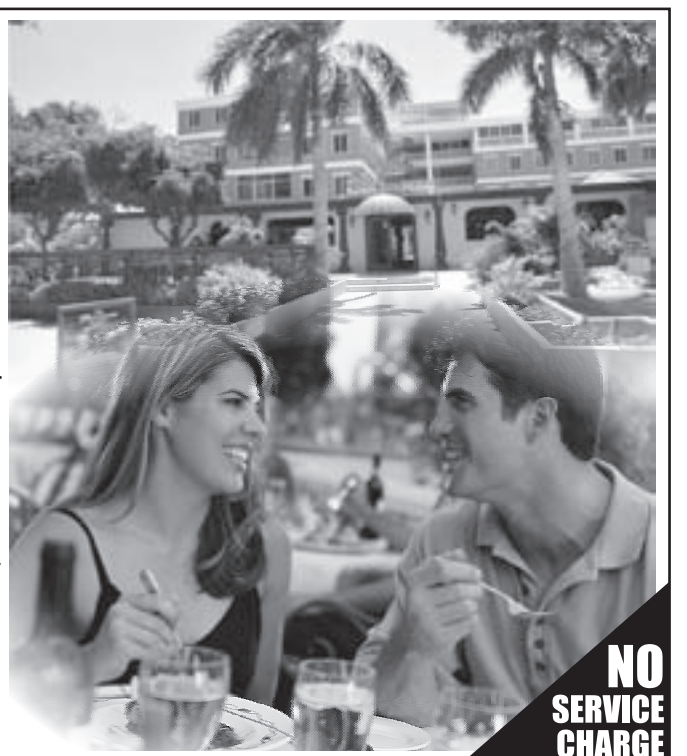
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Mexico:

Maquiladora industry cry foul on new taxes

MARK STEVENSON
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Industry groups say President Enrique Peña Nieto's proposed tax reform, set for Senate approval Tuesday night, could strangle one of Mexico's economic success stories, the border factories known as maquiladoras.

Owners of the maquiladoras, which turn out everything from auto parts to candy for the U.S. market, argue that the plan would harm the border city of Ciudad Juarez just as it begins to recover from a three-year wave of brutal drug-gang killings.

"The businesses, the stores, the restaurants have just begun opening up again," said Claudia Troitino, head of the Ciudad Juarez maquiladora association. "The economy was just beginning to recover ... This will be a heavy blow."

It's one of numerous business sectors opposed to the tax proposal already approved by the lower house and a Senate committee. Mining companies, soft-drink bottlers and employer associations all protest tax hikes that supporters say are needed to strip some tax privileges away from the wealthy and help remedy deep income inequalities. The current tax code, for example, encourages business executives to create fleets of corporate jets to get tax deductions.

The legislation to raise taxes on businesses and top-end wage earners and end some deductions has drawn full-page ads and radio spots from opponents warning it will discourage investment.

But supporters point out that Mexico currently has a low tax collection rate of just 10 percent of GDP, far less than the average 34 percent among developed countries, leaving little for government social programs. They argue it would bring some social

companies, which for the first time would have to pay a 7.5 percent royalty tax. Mining companies in Mexico currently pay tiny per-acre concession fees but no royalty payments on the minerals extracted, a tax commonly charged elsewhere in Latin Ameri-

maquiladoras would be reimbursed for the new tax once the finished products are exported, but industry leaders say that would be a costly, lengthy and bureaucratic process. Industry leaders say the plan would also significantly raise the maquiladoras'



Workers produce mannequins at the Tecma Group, which operates 18 maquiladoras, or assembly-for-export plants, for 33 companies in the northern border city of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.
(AP Photo/Raymundo Ruiz)

justice to Mexico's lopsided distribution of wealth. "Seldom has there been such a blunt, undisguised campaign by private interests, a massive and virulent campaign against the tax reform," dozens of intellectuals wrote in an open letter to Congress this week. "Apart from the poor and those who can't meet their basic needs, what product, service, industry or company, corporate group or region deserves special privileges?"

The plan would end tax deductions for rich foreign businesses such as mining

ca. Business leaders say that reducing those benefits could prompt them to invest elsewhere. The new royalty tax "would bring Mexico up to an effective tax rate of 73 percent," said Rosalind Wilson, who heads the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's Mining Task Force. "So you might as well forget any new investment."

Peña Nieto has proposed ending the maquiladoras' current exemption from the country's 16 percent sales tax on goods imported for assembly. It says

low corporate income tax rate of 17.5 percent.

Opposition to the plan is especially sharp in Ciudad Juarez, just across the border from El Paso, Texas. There, 228,000 maquiladora jobs support about 1 million people, including workers' families, about three-quarters of the population. And the city is just starting to recover from a wave of violence, with 341 homicides recorded in the first eight months of this year, down from 952 killings by gangs in the first half of 2012, and 1,642 in the first half of 2011. □

Brazil: Water shortage runs Rio's taps dry

JENNY BARCHFIELD
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Taps were dry across a wide swath of Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday, some for nearly a week straight, prompting a flurry of criticism of the state water company and forcing some desperate residents of this Olympic city to fill plastic bottles with water from streams. Rio's Cedae water utility cut off service to nearly a dozen Rio neighborhoods Thursday as part of routine maintenance on a treatment plant on the Guanabara River, the main water source for the city of 6 million. The utility had said in a Thursday statement that it could take up to 72 hours for service to be restored. But long after that period passed, many parts of the city remained without water. Cedae later pledged that water would be restored to all households by the end of Tuesday.

The 11 neighborhoods affected include beachfront Leme, chic Santa Teresa, stately Flamengo, as well as Maracana, home to the soccer stadium where next year's World Cup final will be played. A recent cover of O Globo newspaper showed enterprising residents of the upscale Cosme Velho neighborhood filling large plastic bottles from a fresh-water fountain. Many apartment buildings have relied on water delivery trucks to keep their storage tanks full. Rio's consumer protection agency began investigating allegations of price gouging after O Globo reported some trucks were charging as much as 4,000 reais (\$1,833) for 20,000 liters of water. □



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PALM BEACH - Pelican Adventures hosted the Fam trip of Wedding planners last Saturday Oct. 26th, on board of the 'Pelican Too,' for a fabulous Sunset Cruise. Pelican Adventures had on board 16 Wedding planners from various states in America, who sailed along the west coast of Aruba while enjoying a

warm breeze, open bar and snacks. The guests first had a welcome drink at the Pelican bar followed by the nice Sunset Cruise, where they danced and had quite a nice experience while sailing along the coast of Aruba. We hope to see them again and their prestigious customers on board our

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ORANJESTAD - Since May 2012 everyone who visits Aruba or who lives here can experience beautiful composed, orchestrated and arranged music with wonderful romantic lyrics sung by Fred de Jong weekly and order local food and delicious drinks while watching our Aruba Sinatra Dinner Show at The Old Cunucu House Restaurant. Every Thursday from 7:30 pm till 10.00 pm Fred de Jong sings a selection of the best romantic songs also performed by singers like Frank Sinatra, Michael Bubl , Harry Connick jr. Many tourists and locals have visited this show al-

ready and wrote great reviews about it. The music in this show is loved by so many people and especially by the Senior Citizen, because it often brings back so many wonderful and touching memories of the past. Fred de Jong and his team want to do something nice for our Senior Citizens, who are sometimes so easily forgotten after all they did for us in the past. That is why the idea came up to organize a special Aruba Sinatra Senior Citizen Show at Cas di Cultura on October 30th, from 7:00 till 9:00 pm. According to Fred de Jong: "We gave away about three hun-

dred (300) tickets to elderly homes, like SABA, Cas Cristelle, Bethesda Homecare, St. Thuiszorg Aruba, Cas Cuido y Alegria pa Nos Grandinan, OASIS, Cas di Cuido pa Hende Grandi, Stichting Cas di Machi for all the people who are able to go to a show like this, but we also gave some tickets to the elderly clubs, like grupo Flor di Bini Bini, Uni, Kawara, Pegasaya, Palmita di Ora, Monarca, Magdalena, Palaya Pabao, Flor di Brazil, Kuk-wisa, Violeta, Lago Heights Funhoppers, Flamboyant, Movimiento ta Bida, Edat no ta conta, Golden Agers, Kibrahacha, to raffle or divide the tickets among member who deserve a present in their club. Of course we were not able to cover everybody, but if the show is successful, we might organize the show yearly and if necessary and possible more evenings per year. Some government and other officials will be invited. In this special show Fred de Jong sings songs like: "Fly Me To The Moon",



"My Way", "I've Got You Under My Skin", "Luck Be A Lady", "Come Rain, Or Shine", "Girl From Ipanema", "I've Got The World On A String", "One For My Baby", "Night And Day", "You Make Me Feel So Young", "Softly As I Leave You", "For Once In My Life", "It Had To Be You", "Guess I'll Hang My Tears Out To Dry", "Witchcraft", "The Way You Look To Night", "It Was A Very Good Year",

"New York - New York", "The Lady Is A Tramp" and many more. The show will be held in the Auditorium at Cas di Cultura and the rest of the about two hundred and fifty (250) tickets will be sold to cover the cost of the rent, organization and promotion. If you want to support this event by attending it, you can obtain tickets by calling +297-594-1098 or e-mailing fred@freddejong.com.□



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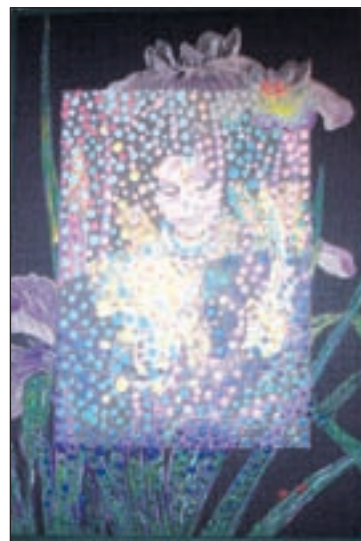
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the bingo are Afls.10, for 10 games with a total in prizes of Afls. 7,000, we will be selling food and beverages all the earn funds for the bingo and sales will be entire for the building improvements; 280 students and countless others in the future will benefit from it If you have any questions or would like additional information, or will like us to pay a visit to your offices to explain in details about this project Ingrid Kuiperdal 593-1837 -Marielea Simons 731-7908 or Ibero American High School at 584-4122.□



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PALM BEACH - This is the last chance to visit the Gallery's Choice Display "Oct/Nov" 2013 at Westin Aruba Art Gallery at Westin Resort and Casino. Artists on display are: Agaath van Vliet, Anita Hugen, Annet van Doorm, Carlos Rojas, DaniloGeerman, Eduardo Valbuena, Elvis Tromp, Eefje v/d Straten van Twillert, Frank Croes, JoostHorward, Jose Ingacio Alvarado, Luis Mespuita (CharruArt), Mavalda Tromp, Michiko Takatsu,



[WAAG] opens 7 days a week, which is located at the lobby level of Westin Aruba Resort & Casino. The gallery representatives will be present on Tuesday afternoon (3 pm – 6 pm), and Saturday (10 am – 1 pm) to answer all your questions or/and assist you for purchasing artworks. You can also reach us during office hours at: 588-2267, 740-2678, or 742-1987. And the following NEW exhibition will open on Nov.



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'Seahawks' stand preserves 14-9 win over Rams

DAVE SKRETTA
AP Sports Writer

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The Seattle Seahawks completed a lousy night for St. Louis sports fans. NFL Roundup Russell Wilson threw two touchdown passes to Golden Tate, and the Seahawks made a dramatic goal-line stand in the final minute to preserve a 14-9 victory over the Rams on Monday night — less than an hour after the Cardinals lost to the Red Sox in the game 5 of the World Series just up the street.

The Seahawks, riding the best start in club history, were clinging to the lead when they were forced to punt with just over 5 minutes left in the game.

They managed to pin St. Louis at its own 3-yard line, but Kellen Clemens — starting at quarterback in place of the injured Sam Bradford — calmly marched the Rams to the Seattle 1 as time wound down. Darryl Richardson was stuffed on third down, and Clemens threw a fade pass incomplete in the corner of the end zone on fourth down as time expired. The Seahawks now have seven wins from eight games.

"The defense did a tremendous job, coming up with a huge stop there," Wilson said.

The Seahawks won despite gaining just 135 yards of total offense, 80 of it on Wilson's second TD pass to



Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Golden Tate (81) makes a catch against St. Louis Rams cornerback Janoris Jenkins (21) during the second half of an NFL football game, Monday, Oct. 28, 2013, in St. Louis. Tate ran the ball into the end zone for a touchdown.

Associated Press

Tate, the third-fewest yards in a victory in franchise history.

Wilson was sacked a career-high seven times by the Rams defense.

"The defensive line, they were making plays," Wilson said. "We have to find a way to slow them down."

The World Series no doubt contributed to the stale atmosphere inside the Edward Jones Dome, where the announced crowd of 55,966 was in reality much smaller. Many of the fans who did show up wore Cardinals gear, and World Series highlights were shown on the big screen.

The Red Sox polished off their 3-1 victory in Game 5 just before the Rams embarked on their final drive — one that would ultimately leave the hometown crowd even more unimpressed.

Clemens finished with 158 yards passing for the Rams, but he also threw two interceptions, one of them to Richard Sherman. Zac Stacy ran for a career-high 134 yards.

"It's not always going to be pretty," Sherman said. "You have to be able to win ugly."

Greg Zuerlein staked St. Louis to an early lead with his first of three field goals, but Sherman's pick put the Seahawks in business.

Continued on Page 20



Super Bowl ring stolen 25 years ago found

ENCINITAS, California (AP) — NFL Hall of Famer Lance Alworth is getting back his Super Bowl championship ring, 25 years after it was stolen.

NFL Hall of Fame player Lance Alworth displays his 1971 Super Bowl ring that was stolen 21 years ago and returned by the San Diego County Sheriff's office in Encinitas, Calif. Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2013, in Encinitas, Calif.

Associated Press

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department said Tuesday the 1971 ring was scheduled to be sold Nov. 20 at an auction house in Laguna Niguel with an

opening bid of \$44,000. The ring was reported stolen in 1988 from a San Diego bar that displayed sports memorabilia. Investigators say Alworth received a phone call last month demanding \$40,000 for the ring he won in the National Football League championship. □

Nishikori beats Tsonga at Paris Masters

TRUNG LATIEULE
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Kei Nishikori of Japan put an end to Jo-Wilfried Tsonga's bid for a World Tour Finals spot by defeating the Frenchman 1-6, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (7) on Tuesday in the second round of the Paris Masters.

In other second-round matches, Richard Gasquet of France outlasted Fernando Verdasco of Spain 7-5, 6-7 (6), 6-3 to stay in contention for the tournament in London, last year's runner-up Jerzy Janowicz of Poland beat Colombian qualifier Santiago Giraldo 7-6 (3), 6-3, and Novak Djokovic of Serbia ousted French qualifier Pierre-Hugues Herbert 7-6 (3), 6-3.

In the tiebreaker of the final set, the eighth-seeded Tsonga wasted his first match point by double-faulting. Nishikori fired an ace to save a second match point and then won the match when Tsonga

made his eighth double-fault.

Nishikori blew a 4-1 lead in the second set but capitalized on a string of unforced errors from the 2008 champion in the tiebreaker to level the match.

"I believe he managed well, because I could have won that match," Tsonga said. "He was very solid, especially during the important moments of the match." The ninth-seeded Gasquet also labored but he converted his fifth match point when Verdasco sent a backhand long. Verdasco hit two service winners to save two match points at 6-5 in the second set. The Spaniard then erased seven break points in the final set before dropping serve at 3-all with a wide forehand.

"It's sort of a gift for me to be here and contend for a World Tour Finals spot," Gasquet said. "It rewards a good season."

Ranked 189th in the world and playing just his second tournament on the main tour, Herbert forced Djokovic to save two set points at 6-5. The second-seeded Serb then took a 5-2 lead in the tiebreaker and went a set up when Herbert netted a forehand. Djokovic, who won the Paris Masters in 2009, led 5-0 in the second set and held off a late charge from Herbert to seal the victory when the Frenchman's forehand return sailed long.

The Australian Open champion still has a chance to finish the season ahead of No. 1 Rafael Nadal in the rankings.

"If I finish No. 1 of the world, definitely it will be great for me," Djokovic said. "But again, the chances are not very big. And Nadal is where he is, No. 1 of the world, because he played the best tennis and he has the results."

Djokovic won tournaments

in Beijing and Shanghai earlier this month.

Nadal, Djokovic, David Ferrer, Juan Martin del Potro and Tomas Berdych have already qualified for the tournament in London next week. There are still three spots up for grabs as Andy Murray withdrew from the season-ending event to recover from back surgery.

In first-round matches, Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria rallied past two-time semifinalist Michael Llodra of France 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-3, Spanish lucky loser Pablo Andujar overcame Vasek Pospisil of Canada 6-4, 2-6, 6-4, and Kevin Anderson of South Africa was leading 4-6, 7-6 (0), 2-1 when his opponent, Mikhail Youzhny of Russia, retired because of pain in his right elbow. Andujar replaced Gael Monfils in the main draw after the Frenchman pulled out because of a left wrist injury.

Marcel Granollers of Spain,



Japan's Kei Nishikori returns the ball to France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, during their second round match, at the Paris Masters tennis, in the Paris Bercy stadium, Tuesday Oct. 29, 2013.

Associated Press

Ivan Dodig of Croatia, French wild card Nicolas Mahut and Polish qualifier Michal Przysiezny also moved into the second round.

Granollers will face top-seeded Rafael Nadal after his 6-4, 6-4 victory over Dmitry Tursunov of Russia. □



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CASINO AND SHOPS

Seahawks

Continued from Page 18

Seattle took advantage of his fourth interception of the season by scoring six players later, when Wilson hit Tate from the 2-yard line. Zuerlein got the Rams within 7-6 late in the third quarter, but the Seahawks answered.

Two plays later, Wilson went deep down the sideline to Tate, who made an acrobatic leaping catch over Janoris Jenkins. Tate regained his balance and then mockingly waved at safety Rodney McLeod as he ran to the end zone, earning an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

Zuerlein connected again to get St. Louis to 14-9, but he missed a 50-yard field goal in the fourth quarter. That proved to be key because the Rams would have needed just another field goal from him on their final drive, rather than a touchdown, to steal the win.



St. Louis Rams wide receiver Tavon Austin (11) gets tackled by Seattle Seahawks cornerback Brandon Browner (39) during the first half of an NFL football game, Monday, Oct. 28, 2013, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

The Rams stayed in the defense, which took advantage of the Seahawks missing starting offensive Breno Giacomini due to game largely thanks to their vantage of the Seahawks tackles Russell Okung and injuries. □

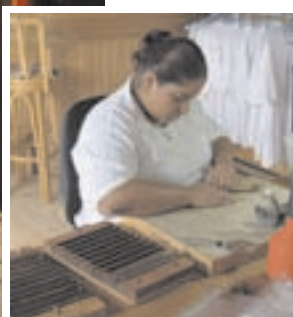
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. With any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. Aruhiba gift boxes are now available at Dufry Shop at the Airport.



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NHL Capsules

Montreal's Budaj spoils Rangers' home opener

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — NEW YORK (AP) — Peter Budaj made 27 saves for his 11th career NHL shutout, and Tomas Plekanec and Alex Galchenyuk provided all the offense Montreal needed as the Canadiens spoiled the New York Rangers' long-awaited home opener with a 2-0 victory Monday night.

The 31-year-old Budaj was on the top of his game despite playing in place of No. 1 goalie Carey Price for only the second time this season and first since Oct. 10 at Edmonton when he stopped 27 of 28 shots in a win.

Plekanec scored the decisive goal on a power play in the second period. Budaj made it stand up for Montreal (7-5), which had lost three of four since a four-game winning streak. Galchenyuk scored his second goal of the season with 2:51 left. That sealed the win moments after Budaj blocked an in-close chance for Mats Zuccarello.

STARS 4, SABRES 3

BUFFALO, New York (AP) — Tyler Seguin capped a three-goal, first-period outburst, and the Stars hung on to deliver coach Lindy Ruff a win in his homecoming against the Sabres.

Jamie Benn, Alex Gol-

goski and Vernon Fiddler also scored in a game the Stars nearly squandered a 4-1 lead against the NHL's worst team. Eric Cole added two assists in Ruff's first game against his former team after his 16-year tenure in Buffalo ended with him being fired on Feb. 20. Matt Moulson nearly spoiled Ruff's return by scoring two goals in his Sabres debut, a day after being acquired in a trade that sent Thomas Vanek to the New York Islanders. Steve Ott also scored for Buffalo (2-11-1), which matched its worst start through 14 games.

BLACKHAWKS 5, WILD 1

ST. PAUL, Minnesota (AP) — Patrick Sharp finally scored and Nick Leddy jump-started Chicago's stagnant special teams with a power-play goal as the Blackhawks beat the Wild.

Corey Crawford made 29 saves, and Sheldon Brookbank, Patrick Kane and Brandon Saad all scored to give the Blackhawks just their third game of more than three goals in 12 contests this season.

After giving up 11 goals while losing their previous two games, the Blackhawks played tougher defense, were more disciplined and paid the Wild back for their 5-3 win Saturday in Chicago.



Montreal Canadiens goalie Peter Budaj of the Czech Republic makes a save in the second period of their NHL hockey game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Monday, Oct. 28, 2013.

Associated Press

Jason Pominville had a goal for the Wild, his third in two games to tie it at 1 midway through the second period, but Niklas Backstrom never found his footing in the net.

PENGUINS 3, HURRICANES 1
RALEIGH, North Carolina (AP) — Rookie Jayson Megna had his first career goal and assist, helping the Penguins end a three-game losing streak with a victory over the Hurricanes.

Chris Kunitz and Tanner Glass also scored for the Metropolitan Division-leading Penguins. Brooks Orpik had three assists, Sidney Crosby added two and Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 20 shots.

Pittsburgh ended its longest losing streak since 2011-12 by defeating the Hurricanes for the fourth straight time.

Nathan Gerbe scored a power-play goal for Car-

olina, which lost its third straight but remained tied with the New York Islanders for second in the division — five points behind the Penguins. Justin Peters made 26 saves in his second straight start in place of the injured Cam Ward.

CANUCKS 3, CAPITALS 2

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Daniel Sedin scored the game-winner in the third period and added an assist for Vancouver, which won its fourth straight.

Zack Kassian and Ryan Kesler also scored for Vancouver, which played at Rogers Arena for the first time since Oct. 12 after a seven-game trip. Henrik Sedin added an assist to extend his point streak to nine games.

Roberto Luongo made 17 saves for the Canucks.

Jason Chimera, with a goal and an assist, and Mikhail Grabovski scored for Washington, which got 38 saves from Michal Neuvirth.

After the teams traded goals early in the third period, Daniel Sedin and Henrik Sedin played keepaway in the Washington zone to give Vancouver the lead for good. Daniel Sedin finished the sequence off by faking a pass at the top of the slot and blasting a shot past Neuvirth at 5:01 to make it 3-2. □

White Sox finalize deal with Cuban slugger Abreu

CHICAGO (AP) — Cuban slugger Jose Abreu has finalized a \$68 million, six-year contract with the Chicago White Sox.

The deal was announced Tuesday, about a week-and-a-half after the sides reached an agreement. He is the organization's 17th Cuban player and the third currently on the roster, join-

ing shortstop Alexei Ramirez and outfielder Dayan Viciedo. "I know there were other teams interested but the support that I would have from Cuban players like Alexei and Dayan and from the beginning, they were interested and showed their interest," Abreu said through a translator. "When it came down to where it

will be, it was pretty simple to pick the White Sox."

Abreu's agent Barry Praver said as many as eight teams were seriously involved before the list was narrowed to five finalists. All five final offers were at least \$60 million. The 26-year-old Abreu will receive a signing bonus of \$10 million, with \$6 million payable upon approval by

Major League Baseball and \$4 million due Nov. 14, 2014. He will get salaries of \$7 million in each of the next two seasons, \$10 million in 2016, \$10.5 million in 2017, \$11.5 million in 2018 and \$12 million in 2019.

Abreu, who defected last summer, batted .360 (9 for 25) with three home runs and nine RBIs at the World

Baseball Classic last March. The 6-foot-3, 250-pound Abreu is expected to play either first base or fill the designated hitter role.

"He's solid on balls in the dirt which is obviously important at first base," general manager Rick Hahn said. "We think he can be a solid everyday defensive contributor. □

Sexy Halloween, By: Dr. Carlos Viana

As a Medical Anthropologist I am fascinated when I see a culture change or adopt a holiday. Here in Aruba as in most of Latin America, November 1st is All Saint's Day when we visit the graves of departed family members. We clean the tombs, decorate the graves with flowers, pray and remember our departed loved ones.

The Mexican and Filipino celebration of the memory of their deceased ancestors called El Día de los Muertos, or The Day of the Dead also occurs on November 1 and November 2, and is coinciding with the similar Roman Catholic celebrations of All Saints Day and All Souls Day. Yet, we need to realize that "A rose by any other name is still a rose". All of these celebrations are reflections of rituals celebrating the lives of our ancestors. Our Mesoamerican ancestors have performed these rituals for at least 3,000 years; where it was common practice to enact rituals to symbolize death and re-birth.

We appreciate that some of us do not need much rationale to party, but the adoption of Halloween on the eve of All Saint's Day has many social critics denouncing the adoption as Americanization influences. Perhaps, but cultures do not adopt anything unless an emotional need is being satisfied.

Halloween observed on October 31, the eve of All Saints' Day is based on a medieval European concept of death, and is populated

by demons, usually female witches and other images of terror. Our Indo-Hispanic custom of All Saint's Day or The Day of the Dead, in contrast, is distinctly different. Our celebration demonstrates strong sense of love and respect for one's ancestors; celebrates the continuance of life, family relationships, community solidarity; positive concepts! Then why has our culture so quickly embraced the ancient British and Irish Celtic festival of Samhain eve an occasion for one of the ancient fire festivals when huge bonfires were set on hilltops to frighten away evil spirits?

Professionally, in our clinic I witness endless medical complaints rooted in emotional problems. The psychologist, Carl Jung stated that you have two overriding tasks in your life; in the first half of your life you need to become comfortable with your sexuality and in the second half of your life you need to accept your mortality. All human activity is explained as work being done in one of these categorizes. I explain the rapid adoption of Halloween by Latin Americans as an opportunity to symbolically overlay our dominant emotions, sex and death.

Besides the adoption, we are also experiencing that increasingly Halloween is a holiday for adults. Adults now represent up to sixty five percent of Halloween costume sales, a noticeable shift compared with years past. Also, we are observing that the costumes selling the

quickest are those that are sexy adult Halloween costumes and games.

Most adults love Halloween because it is a great excuse to let your imagination go wild. Deep down we all want to be desired, to be seen as sexy and attractive. All that dressing up, play-acting behind the costume mask is liberating for many. The mystery of the mask allows people to do things they normally wouldn't do, without having to worry about the consequences such as gossip, rejection or a tarnished reputation. If no one knows who the person behind the mask is, why would they care about what people think of their actions?

"Deep down we all want to be desired"

Unfortunately, one holiday a year does not provide all the opportunity to learn and for our soul to grow. The path to true health is a journey to understanding who we are. In balance or health the opposites live together in us in harmony. Our existence on earth is experienced as yin and yang, up and down, light and darkness, love and power, good and evil, masculine and feminine, and so on.

In our souls exists all that we human beings have experienced over and over again since the very beginning of human existence on Earth, and

this wisdom becomes visible through several expressions including dreams, art, myths and in many cases a physical illness. When people are ill, there is for them an opportunity to find out what is going on deep in their souls because, frequently, a physical illness is an expression of a wound in the soul.

All feelings, sensation, including pain and medical symptoms are expressions of energy. Energy in your body is either free flowing and balanced or blocked and painful. One of the most powerful tools of the Healing Spirit is acupuncture that uses mainly fine needles, to stimulate points on the body to relieve pain and associated emotional block. There is considerable medical evidence that acupuncture is effective against nausea, pain, psychological, respiratory and digestive problems.

Get The Point! I heard that in New York City the Museum of Sex is hosting a masquerade party that includes an exclusive after-hours tour of the museum. Partygoers will also enjoy an open bar, dancing, live entertainment and a deluxe gift bag. Masquerade guests are encouraged to dress up in sexy costume and masks will be available at the door for anyone in need. You might think it's a time where people put on masks and dance the night away. You're right, but there is much more to Halloween than meets the eye. Are you looking for a more lasting way to help you soul grow away from



pain? Call to make an appointment..

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270, Web Site:

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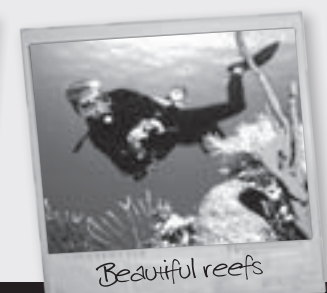
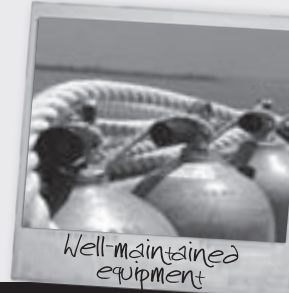
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Smartwatches abound. But who really wants one?

ANICK JESDANUN

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — If consumer electronics companies are to be believed, someone on your holiday shopping list is just dying for a wristwatch that displays message alerts and weather updates.

Samsung and Sony have devices out for the holidays. Qualcomm has one coming. Apple is believed to be making one, and a new report says Google is developing one, too.

Why the big push for computerized watches? It's not coming from consumers, says Jonathan Gaw, a research manager at IDC.

Rather, it's a product in search of a market —and an expensive one at that.

"We've had smartwatches for a while, and while the capabilities and technology have gotten better, this is still not something that people are clamoring for," Gaw says. "The idea that it would ramp up for the holidays was always kind of a stretch."

That hasn't stopped gadget makers from trying. Companies are under pressure to create a new source of buzz now that consumers are no longer wowed by the latest smartphones and tablet computers. Many people al-

ready have those devices, and the new ones out this year are evolutionary rather than revolutionary.

Gaw says many gadget makers see an opportunity to jump in with a smartwatch, before a behemoth like Apple is able to get its rumored iWatch ready. Last month, Samsung Electronics Co. started selling the \$300 Galaxy Gear in the U.S. It works with selected Samsung smartphones to display email and text alerts. There's a camera on the strap for low-resolution photos and a speakerphone on the watch to make calls while leaving your phone in the pocket.



In this Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013, file photo, a model touches the screen of a Samsung Galaxy Gear smartwatch in Berlin, Germany. The so-called smartwatch is what some technology analysts believe could become this year's must-have holiday gift.

Associated Press

Google Plus adds more tools to edit photos, video

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Google is introducing more tools to automatically edit images posted on its Plus networking service in its latest attempt to lure traffic away from Facebook and other online hangouts.

Most of the 18 new features unveiled Tuesday rely on technology designed to identify the photos and videos that are likely to be the most important to the individual users of Plus. Google Inc. launched the service two years ago as an alternative to Facebook's pace-setting social network. Plus has a long way to go to catch up to Facebook. Plus now has 540 million active monthly users, up from 390 million in May. But many of those users may only be watching a YouTube video while logged into Google. Facebook has nearly 1.2 billion

active users.

In Google's attempt to turn Plus into a photo-sharing hub, it added an assortment of automatic ways to manage images on Plus five months ago. The latest features build upon those innovations. Attracting more video to Plus is less important to Google because the Mountain View, California, company already owns YouTube, the Internet's most popular destination for posting clips. "At Google, we are looking at doing nothing less than revolutionizing the field of photography," said Vic Gundotra, the company's senior vice president of social. Google's new editing tools can automatically touch up images or perform tricks such as erasing people from photos or creating animated GIFs — stringing together multiple images to make it seem like the subject of a picture

is moving.

Another feature will create a short movie set to music when a user selects different videos and pictures to mix together.

Snapseed, a Google-owned mobile application that competes against Facebook Inc.'s Instagram photo app, also is getting a new filter to improve the appearance of landscapes and structures.

Google has been focusing on building better image-management tools because a growing number of people are posting videos and photos online on social networking services. About 54 percent of Internet users now post their own pictures or video online, according to a recent survey by the Pew Research Center.

Google says about 1.5 billion photos are being shared on Plus each week.

□

You can install apps for additional functionality, such as tracking fitness activities and playing games, though there are only a handful of apps available for now.

Sony Corp.'s SmartWatch 2 is cheaper, at \$200. Unlike the Gear, it works with a variety of Android phones, not just Sony's. But it doesn't let you make phone calls directly through the wristwatch. You can answer calls using the watch, but you need a Bluetooth wireless headset linked to the phone if you don't want to hold it to your ear.

Qualcomm Inc., meanwhile, plans to start selling Toq before the holidays. It, too, will work with several Android devices.

Another smartwatch getting attention is the Pebble, which comes from a startup that raised more than \$10 million through the fundraising site Kickstarter. It notifies you of incoming calls, texts and emails.

Apple isn't likely to release its iWatch before next year, given that no mention was made of it at the compa-

ny's product showcase last week.

As for Google, The Wall Street Journal cited unnamed people familiar with the matter on Tuesday in reporting that the Internet search company is in late-stage development on a smartwatch which could be ready for mass production within months. Samsung and Sony executives say they've designed their watches to give people ready access to information they would normally check on their phones, reducing the need to constantly pull out the phones. Only Qualcomm seems to be acknowledging that there's no real consumer demand for smartwatches yet. The company says it's trying to showcase what's possible, so other manufacturers will take the concept and build better products — using Qualcomm's display technology and other components.

In a September briefing with The Associated Press, Samsung executives said the company has a history of taking risks. □

Dow closes at a record high as Fed meet begins

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Investors drove the Dow Jones industrial average to an all-time high Tuesday on expectations that the Fed-

The Fed is in the middle of a two-day policy meeting at which it's expected to maintain its \$85 billion worth of bond purchases every month.

That program is aimed

at Prudential Financial. IBM rose \$4.77, or 2.7 percent, to \$181.12, accounting for about a quarter of the Dow's gain.

The Standard and Poor's 500 index rose 9.84 points,

are forecast to log third-quarter earnings growth of 4.5 percent, according to data from S&P Capital IQ. The Nasdaq composite rose 12.21 points, or 0.3 percent, to 3,952.34.

The Nasdaq Stock Market was hit with another glitch. Nasdaq indexes weren't updated from 11:53 a.m. to 12:37 p.m. because of a technical problem that was caused by human error, the exchange operator said in a statement.

Trading of Nasdaq-listed stocks wasn't affected.

On Sept. 4, the Nasdaq had a brief outage in one of its quote dissemination channels, but trading wasn't disrupted.

On Aug. 22 the exchange suffered a three-hour trading outage that was also attributed to problems with the exchange's price disseminating system.

Two economic reports came in relatively weak, which may have encouraged some investors by suggesting that any slowdown in the Fed's stimulus could be a ways off.

Retail sales fell 0.1 percent in September, the weakest showing since March, as auto sales dipped. □



A board on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shows the record closing number for the Dow Jones industrial average. Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2013.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

eral Reserve will keep its economic stimulus program in place.

The Dow rose 111.42 points, or 0.7 percent, to 15,680.35.

The Dow also got a big boost from IBM, which announced that it would buy \$15 billion more of its own stock.

at stimulating economic growth by keeping borrowing rates very low. The Fed will announce its decision Wednesday afternoon.

"The expectation that the Fed remains clearly on hold is the catalyst for this march higher," said Quincy Krosby, a market strategist

or 0.6 percent, to 1,771.95, its seventh record high this month.

About half the companies in the S&P 500 have reported earnings for the third quarter. So far, most are doing better than investors expected.

Companies in the index

STREET BRIEFS

Dell closing deal on going private

ROUND ROCK, Texas (AP) — Michael Dell and investment firm Silver Lake Partners have completed their \$24.9 billion buyout of Dell Inc.

The computer company said Tuesday that its shares will stop trading at the end of the day, closing its quarter-century run as a public company.

Company founder Michael Dell hopes to turn around the struggling business as a private company away from the prying eyes of Wall Street.

Critics say the deal undervalued the company but the transaction was approved by Dell shareholders in September.

Under the agreement, Dell stockholders are getting \$13.75 in cash for each share of Dell common stock they hold. That is in addition to a special cash dividend of 13 cents per share for total consideration of \$13.88 per share in cash. □

IBM board ok's a \$15B buyback

ARMONK, New York (AP) — IBM's board has approved the repurchase of \$15 billion of its common stock.

The company still had about \$5.6 billion remaining under a previous authorization as of September's end.

This means IBM can now buy back up to approximately \$20.6 billion of its shares in total.

IBM said Tuesday that it expects to request approval for more stock buybacks at its October 2014 board meeting.

The company's board also declared a regular quarterly dividend of 95 cents. The dividend will be paid on Dec. 10 to shareholders of record on Nov. 8.

Shares of International Business Machines Corp. added \$3.95, or 2.2 percent, to \$181.30 in afternoon trading. □

BP beats forecasts, plans to raise dividend

STANLEY REED
CLIFFORD KRAUSS
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LONDON - The British oil company BP said Tuesday that its third-quarter profit, adjusted for one-time items, was \$3.7 billion. That was down 25 percent from the previous year but exceeded analysts' consensus forecast by about 15 percent.

BP also said that it would continue its aggressive program of asset sales with a target of \$10 billion in additional sales by 2015. The money raised will be used mostly to fund distributions to shareholders, probably through share buybacks, the company said.

BP also said that it would increase its quarterly divi-

dend by 5.6 percent to 9.5 cents per share, payable in December.

The company continues to look ahead, even as it is still working through the legal and financial ramifications of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill in 2010.

BP has already sold about \$38 billion worth of oil fields and other properties over the last three years, not counting the sale of its Russian affiliate TNK-BP to state-controlled Rosneft for about \$27.5 billion in cash and stock.

Bob Dudley, who replaced Tony Hayward as chief executive after the oil spill, has led a reorganization aimed at raising cash and giving the sprawling company a tighter focus.

The company's profits declined from the previous year primarily from the impact of the asset sales, particularly the Russian deal, as oil-field sales led to lower production. In the third quarter, BP earned about \$800 million from its nearly 20 percent share in Rosneft, compared to about \$1.2 billion from its TNK-BP stake a year earlier.

Excluding Russia, where BP has no operational control, BP's production was down about 2 percent from a year earlier to about 2.2 million barrels per day, the company said.

BP's profits from refining crude oil were also substantially lower.

BP's shares closed 5.62 percent higher Tuesday in Lon-

don trading.

In some respects, Dudley appears to be succeeding in steering BP to a new normal as a smaller - if still large - company. BP is planning to complete 16 to 18 exploration wells, more than in the last three years combined, at a cost of about \$3 billion. BP said that so far, from those wells, it had made two gas discoveries off India and one off Egypt. But investors continue to be concerned about the extent of BP's liabilities in the United States from the 2010 Gulf of Mexico disaster.

BP is "certainly much closer to normal," said Peter Hutton, an analyst at RBC Capital Markets in London, but "it is not out of the woods yet." □



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Dutch bank paying \$1B to settle LIBOR charges

MARCY GORDON
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rabobank of the Netherlands has agreed to pay about \$1 billion to settle U.S., British and Dutch charges of manipulating a key global interest rate. The bank's chairman resigned as it became the fifth financial firm sanctioned in the international rate-rigging scandal.

The amount Rabobank is paying includes \$325 million in an agreement with the U.S. Justice Department that allows the bank to avoid criminal prosecution in exchange for its continued cooperation in the investigation of major banks' conduct regarding LIBOR.

The authorities said Tuesday that Rabobank, one of the world's largest banks, engaged in rigging of the London interbank offered rate, or LIBOR, from 2005 to 2011. Rabobank announced that Piet Moerland, chairman of the executive board, resigned, effective immediately. "On behalf of the bank and the executive board I want to send a very clear signal: a sincere apology and strong condemnation of these inappropriate acts," Moerland said in a statement. "I have decided to resign."

The LIBOR rate affects trillions of dollars in contracts around the world, including mortgages, bonds and consumer loans. A British banking trade group sets the rate daily after more than a dozen big banks submit estimates of their borrowing costs.

Britain's Barclays and Royal Bank of Scotland, Switzerland's biggest bank UBS and British brokerage ICAP have paid a total of about \$2.6 billion to settle charges of rigging the LIBOR.

Dutch Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem said the Libor scandal "has once again damaged the confidence of citizens and bank customers. It's exceptionally serious."

Moerland's resignation was "the most powerful signal possible from the Rabobank board that this is unacceptable and they accept the consequences," Dijsselbloem told reporters.

The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission levied a \$475 million civil penalty against Rabobank, saying its traders engaged in "hundreds of manipulative acts" that hurt the integrity of the LIBOR rate. The traders caused inaccurate submissions of its borrowing costs to be made that benefited banks' trading positions, the agency said. It said some Rabobank employees themselves called the submissions at the time ludicrously high or low.

Over the six years, more than two dozen Rabobank employees in six offices in Europe, the U.S. and Asia were involved in the violations, the CFTC said.

Rabobank settled the CFTC's charges of manipulation and false reporting, and aiding the attempts of traders at other banks to manipulate the LIBOR. In addition to paying the penalty, the bank agreed to take steps to ensure that it submits accurate estimates of its borrowing costs used to calculate the rate. □

Nokia Q3 sales continue to plunge

MATTI HUUHTANEN
Associated Press

HELSINKI (AP) — Nokia reported Tuesday a third-quarter loss as sales at the handsets unit it is selling to Microsoft continued to plunge. But the company gave a positive outlook on continuing operations, including the networks unit, causing the share price to surge.

3 million were Lumias. Demand rose strongly in the U.S., traditionally one of its tougher markets.

But that was not enough to keep Nokia Corp. from giving a negative outlook for the devices and services unit it has agreed to sell to Microsoft Corp. for \$7.2 billion, which will be shown as discontinued operations in the fourth quarter.



In this photo released by Nokia Corp., fairgoers try on Nokia's new smartphone at Nokia World fair in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates. Nokia reported Tuesday a third-quarter loss as sales at the handsets unit it is selling to Microsoft continued to plunge.

(AP Photo/Nokia Corp.)

Third-quarter net loss of 91 million euros (\$125 million) compared with a net loss of 969 million euros a year earlier, while revenue fell more than 20 percent to 5.6 billion euros.

But the struggling company said its network operations saw net profit grow 33 percent and was expected to have a positive operating margin of up to 12 percent in the last quarter, with "solid net sales growth on a sequential basis." Nokia's share price closed up 7 percent higher at 5.34 euros in Helsinki. The Finnish company sold 8.8 million smartphones in the period — all Lumia products — up 40 percent from a year earlier. In the third quarter last year it sold 6.3 million smartphones of which less than

The company was more upbeat about its remaining operations: Nokia Solutions and Networks, or NSN; HERE mapping services and the Advanced Technologies unit. CFO Timo Ihamuotila said it will be in better shape without the devices and services unit, which saw net sales fall by 19 percent in the quarter to 2.9 billion euros, selling only 64.6 million devices, down from 83 million a year earlier.

"Nokia's earnings profile and financial position are expected to strengthen significantly," Ihamuotila told analysts during a conference call, saying the company will invest in growth in both mapping and location services.

Although Nokia retained its no.2 position in mobile

phone sales overall with a 15.5 percent global share, that was mainly thanks to its line of older, non-smartphones that still sell in some emerging markets.

In smartphones, Nokia did not fare well.

At less than 9 million units, its sales lag well behind Samsung's 88 million and Apple's 33.8 million. Even South Korean LG, with 12.7 million units, and China's Lenovo, which sold 11 million, surged past the former world No. 1 that once commanded a global smartphone market share of 50 percent.

Neil Mawston from Strategy Analytics near London said Nokia's remaining operations looked promising.

The networks figures were "reasonably good" and would be a short term boost for the company, he said, while the HERE mapping services — commanding more than 80 percent market share in the automobile trade — could be a longer lasting boon.

"HERE has some decent prospects, and we see it as being the long term profit driver," Mawston said. "Nokia has a huge market share in maps worldwide and maps are core to a lot of the automotive and shopping experiences out there worldwide."

Mawston said he was also "relatively optimistic" about Nokia's Lumia range.

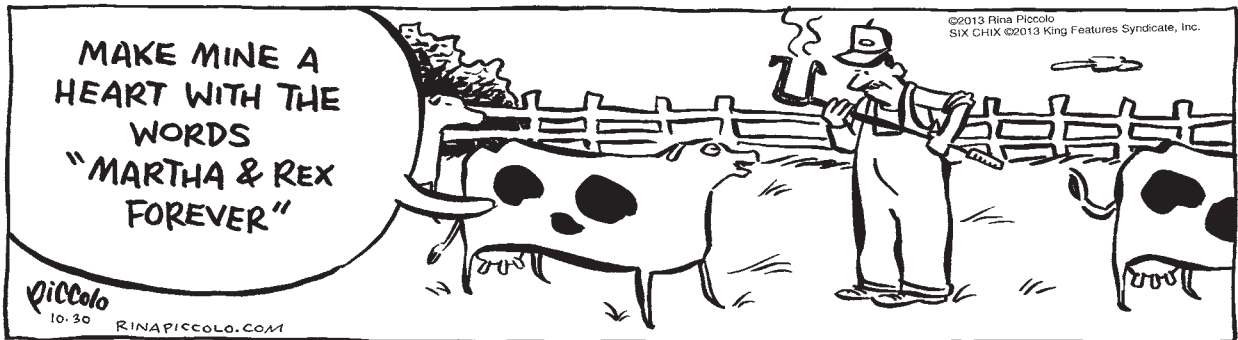
"All the arrows are pointing in the right direction," he said. "Nokia-Lumia still has a long way to go but at least they are headed in the right direction after going in the wrong direction for so long."

Nokia board chairman and interim CEO Risto Siilasmaa described the third quarter as "the most transformative" in the company's history. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



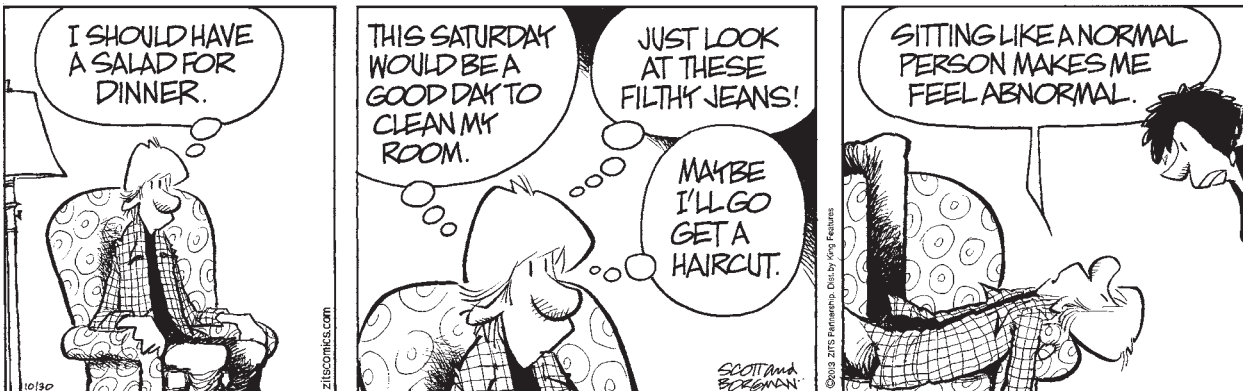
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		5	1	8	3	9		
	9						5	
7				9				6
9				2				3
2	6			7	1	5		9
4								1
3								5
	8			5			2	
		9	4	1	2	6		

Difficulty Level ★★★

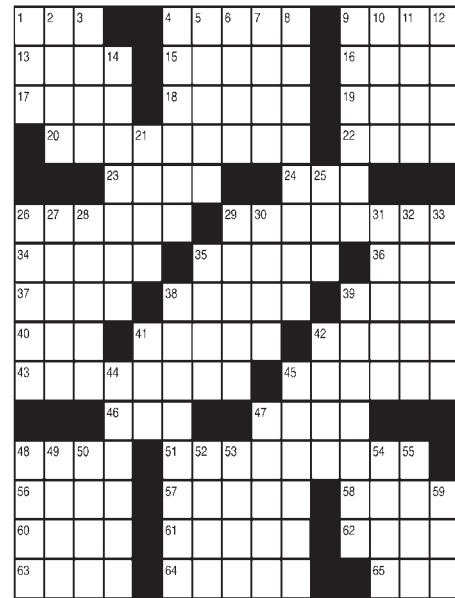
10/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

1	4	2	7	3	6	8	9	5
6	3	9	1	8	5	7	4	2
8	7	5	4	2	9	6	1	3
3	8	1	6	9	7	5	2	4
2	9	7	5	4	8	1	3	6
4	5	6	2	1	3	9	7	8
9	1	4	8	6	2	3	5	7
7	2	8	3	5	1	4	6	9
5	6	3	9	7	4	2	8	1

ACROSS

- 1 ___Wan Kenobi of "Star Wars"
4 Jewish leader
9 Facts & figures
13 Takes first prize
15 Popular cuisine
16 Hardly ___; seldom
17 Every
18 "Been __, done that"
19 Thailand, once
20 Broke into bits
22 In a lazy way
23 Close friends
24 "___ a long way to Tipperary..."
26 Pitcher's delight
29 Make resentful
34 Huge lifting machine
35 Banishment
36 Wallach or Marienthal
37 Ladder step
38 Syrup flavor
39 Bodies of water
40 ___ up; misbehave
41 Wild
42 "Divine Comedy" poet
43 Most vexing
45 ___ up; blows it
46 Printer owner's purchase
47 Chopped meat concoction
48 Hotel room furnishings
51 Strike a deal
56 Chopping tools
57 Chris of tennis
58 High-pitched barks
60 Longest river
61 Good judgment
62 Pass over
63 Mixer speed
64 Look of contempt
65 Like dangerous winter roads



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/30/13

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

RUED	SURGE	POUR
ERGO	USUAL	ROSE
AGOG	PUBLICIZED	
DEC	MIRE	LEEDS
EBONY	GIS	
INNATE	MENTAL	
LATCH	BLEAT	LOT
KIRK	SABER	STAR
ALI	WHISK	PHOTO
SCHOOL	FLIGHT	
ARE	PLANE	
ALARM	LION	TOM
MARASCHINO	OHIO	
ONES	OARED	BENS
SEAS	GLASS	IRKS

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10/30/13

- 39 Walks pompously
41 Swim ___; diver's flipper
42 Mr. Arnaz
44 Mouth, slangily
45 As a ___ of fact; actually
47 Steed
48 Prohibits
49 Way out
50 Sandwich shop
52 Level; smooth
53 Trait transmitter
54 Polynesian carved image
55 Heroic tale
59 Secret agent

DOWN

- 1 Run up a tab

For 'SNL' cast, diversity comes into question

JASON ZINOMAN

© 2013 New York Times

One decade after "Saturday Night Live" began in 1975, it added the first black woman to its primary cast. Danitra Vance, a gifted downtown actress and Second City veteran, lasted just one season.

"Saturday Night Live" later cast Ellen Cleghorne (1991-95) and Maya Rudolph, a biracial star who left in 2007. And that's it. In this context, it's no wonder that the cast member Kenan Thompson set off a debate this month when he explained the show's dearth of black women this way: "It's just a tough part of the business," he told TV Guide. "Like in auditions, they just never find ones that are ready."

Let me state the obvious: That "Saturday Night Live," once home of the Not Ready for Prime Time players, has hired only three black women for its main cast- in addition to Yvonne Hudson, a featured player in 1980 - in four decades says more about the show than about the talent pool. That doesn't mean that the show's executive producer, Lorne Michaels, discriminates so much as he doesn't put a premium on this kind of diversity.

Jay Pharoah, who plays President Barack Obama on the show, does, however. He has argued that "SNL" should hire Darrin Brunson, a comic on Tyler

Perry's sitcom "Love Thy Neighbor." He praised her talent, but unlike Thompson, he doesn't merely talk about being ready. Why hire her? "Because she's black, first of all," Pharoah said pointedly.

The bluntness of this comment is actually more important than anything Thompson said. That's because, for a show of topical parody rooted in current national politics and mass culture, diversity is a question not just of fairness, but also of art.

Part of the reason this issue has moved into the public eye now is that after years of playing Whoopi Goldberg, Jennifer Hudson and other black women, Thompson has decided to stop performing in drag, limiting the options for sketch subjects on the show. (He added that Pharoah also "doesn't really want to do it.")

Comedy has historically been rife with the same kind of old boys' clubs as in law, academia and Hollywood. While "Saturday Night Live" looks for the best talent, why certain people make it, and others do not, is far more complex

than simple merit.

Vance, who died of cancer at 35, had the bad luck to appear during a famously disastrous season, and the roles she played included a teenage mother and a rapper rapping about wrapping paper. Soon after leaving, however, she displayed a mountain of talent in "The Colored Museum," George C. Wolfe's modern classic that is the most brilliantly irreverent play about race ever written.

In one of many blisteringly funny sketches in that production, Vance played a stewardess on a slave ship called Celebrity, all peppy assurances and smiling manipulation. ("Repeat after me: I don't hear any drums and I will not rebel.") She tells the passengers to buckle their shackles before giving the hard sell. "All right, so you're going to have to suffer a few hundred years," she concedes, a shrill edge creeping into her voice.

I thought of this monologue while watching another sketch about slavery in last week's episode of "Saturday Night Live." □

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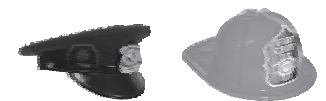
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Asian carp reproduce in Great Lakes watershed

By **JOHN FLESHER**
AP Environmental Writer
TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP)

-- Scientists said Monday they have documented for the first time that an Asian carp species has successfully reproduced within the Great Lakes watershed, an ominous development in the struggle to slam the door on the hungry invaders that could threaten native fish. An analysis of four grass carp captured last year in Ohio's Sandusky River, a tributary of Lake Erie, found they had spent their entire lives there and were not introduced through means such as stocking, according to researchers with the U.S. Geological Survey and Bowling Green State University.

Grass carp are among four species imported from Asia decades ago to control algae and unwanted plants in controlled settings such as sewage treatment lagoons. They escaped into the wild and have spread into the Mississippi



Tommy Goszewski, a technician with the U.S. Geological Survey, holds a grass carp taken from a pond at an agency lab in Columbia, Mo., in spring 2013.
Associated Press

and other rivers and lakes across the nation's heartland. Of greatest concern in the Great Lakes region are bighead and silver carp, prolific breeders that gobble huge amounts of

plankton - tiny plants and animals that are vital to aquatic food chains. Scientists say if they gain a foothold in the lakes, they could spread widely and destabilize a fishing industry valued at \$7 billion. Grass carp are less worrisome because they eat larger plants instead of plankton and don't compete with native species, although they could harm valuable wetland vegetation where some fish spawn.

But because all Asian carp species require similar conditions to reproduce successfully, the Sandusky River discovery suggests it's likely that any of them could spawn there and in many other Great Lakes tributaries, said Duane Chapman, a USGS fisheries biologist and member of the research team.

"It's bad news," Chapman said. "It would have been a lot easier to control these fish if they'd been limited in the number of places where they could spawn. This makes our job harder. It doesn't make it impossible, but it makes it harder."

The Obama administration has spent nearly \$200 million to shield the lakes, focusing primarily on an electrified barrier and other measures in Chicago-area waterways that offer a pathway from the carp-infested Mississippi River watershed to Lake Michigan. Critics say more is needed and are pressing to physically separate the two systems. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is scheduled to release a report in coming months on a long-term solution.

John Goss, who heads the White House Council on Environmental Quality's Asian carp program, said sterile grass carp have been found in the Great Lakes for years. But the discovery that they can reproduce within the watershed "reinforces why we must continue to execute the aggressive strategy to keep silver

and bighead carp out of the Great Lakes that we have been pursuing for the past three and a half years," he said.

A commercial fisherman captured four small grass carp from the Sandusky River in 2012. Chapman and his colleagues determined they were at least a year old and could become spawning adults.

The scientists also examined bones in the fishes' heads called "otoliths" that indicate the chemistry of the waters they've inhabited, and they compared them with otoliths of farmed fish. The analysis confirmed the grass carp were hatched through natural reproduction in the river.

To spawn successfully, Asian carp need rivers of a certain length with currents that keep their eggs drifting long enough to hatch. Researchers are fine-tuning computer models that can determine the likelihood that a particular river is suitable. A few years ago, scientists believed that perhaps two dozen rivers in the Great Lakes watershed offered good spawning habitat. But the grass carp analysis and other recent findings suggest the number may be considerably higher, Chapman said. He and others are developing a list.

"It also means that many more reservoirs in the United States are at risk of Asian carp establishment," he said.

The Sandusky River has about 15 miles of flowing waters accessible to the grass carp - a shorter stretch than experts previously believed necessary for spawning.

"This is further evidence that we can't underestimate the flexibility that Asian carps have to become acclimated to and even adapt to environments outside their native range," said Reuben Goforth, a Purdue University scientist who has studied the carp but wasn't involved with the USGS project. □

Study: Gold rush-era mercury flowing downstream

FRESNO, California (AP) — California's gold rush may long be over, but mercury-contaminated soil from mining activities in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada continues to flow downstream, impacting fish and the environment, a new study suggests.

The heavy metal tends to be loosened during major floods that occur about once a decade and likely will continue unless something is done to prevent mercury-laden sediment from eroding and ending up in the state's agricultural heartland, according to the study published online Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"The problem is very serious indeed," said lead author Michael Singer of the University of St. Andrews in

Scotland. During the 19th century gold rush, miners used mercury to process gold throughout the West. An estimated 26 million pounds of mercury was used for gold recovery in the Sierra Nevada and Klamath-Trinity Mountains.

Scientists have long known that mercury contamination from long-ago mining ends up in sediments and in stream channels. The metal sometimes converts into a more potent form that can be consumed by fish, amphibians and waterfowl. Numerous waterways in Northern California downstream of mining activities post warnings about fish consumption.

In the latest study, a group of U.K. and U.S. researchers studied soil from a Sierra Nevada mining deposit

and points downstream. Levels of mercury in the sediment were up to hundreds of times higher than background levels.

Then the team analyzed topographic maps, streamflow data and satellite images, and used computer modeling to show that the mercury in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and San Francisco Bay came from historic gold mining that was released during episodic floods.

Charles Alpers, a research chemist at the U.S. Geological Survey's Sacramento office, said the findings show how important floods are in transporting mercury.

"This problem isn't going to go away anytime soon," said Alpers, who had no role in the study. □

'Modern Family' cast, creators celebrate fans

MIKE CIDONI LENNOX

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The cast and creators of the Emmy-winning sitcom "Modern Family" gave back Monday, honoring more than 1,000 of the show's devotees with a "fan appreciation day."

The fans "have really gotten us where we are," said Nolan Gould, who plays Luke Dunphy on the series, a mockumentary-styled comedy about close relatives living in three different households.

All of the "Family" acting principals attended the event, including Sofia Vergara, Jesse Tyler Ferguson and Gould, for whom time with the fans doubled as part of his 15th-birthday celebration.

On the arrivals line, many cast members had stories about memorable "Family" fan encounters. But when it came to name-dropping, there was no topping Ed O'Neill, who portrays series' patriarch Jay Pritchett.

"I was having coffee one day in (the Westside Los Angeles neighborhood of) Brentwood in my car, reading the paper," O'Neill said. "There was a knock on my window on the other side. And I looked up and the guy was waving, and I rolled the window down and it was Steven Spielberg. And this was the first season. And he was saying, 'Ed, I love the

show.' He watches it with his daughter. It was very sweet."

Though "Modern Family" is in its fifth season on ABC, this event was sponsored by USA, the cable network that picked up syndication rights to the show and has been running nine hours of its reruns weekly since late September.

According to a network spokesperson, each night's "Family" block now attracts more than a million total viewers. "I can tell on Twitter that I see (postings such as), 'Where has "Modern Family" been my whole life?'" said cast member Eric Stonestreet.

"Definitely I'm seeing in my own little study and research that we're opening up new territories for viewership."

USA has been promoting the sitcom heavily, including a campaign asking fans to go online and choose their favorite "Family" installment.

USA's executive vice president of marketing and digital, Alexandra Shapiro, said about 3,000 viewers responded and 600 were picked to see the cast do a reading of the selected episode. More than 400 additional fans showed up at the theater, waited in a standby line and obtained tickets. An exact event attendee headcount wasn't available Tuesday morning.

Those who got into the theater watched the cast



Cast members, from left, Ed O'Neill, Julie Bowen, and Jesse Tyler Ferguson attend USA Network's "Modern Family" Fan Appreciation Day at the Westwood Village Theatre on Monday, Oct. 28, 2013 in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

read the script for the "fan favorite" — the second-season episode in which the Dunphy kids accidentally barge in on their parents, Phil (Ty Burrell) and Claire (Julie Bowen), having sex.

"It may have come from an incident in real life, unfortunately," said "Family" co-creator Steven Levitan, grinning.

"That was a little daunting," he said. "But it's nice when you can take these moments that are perhaps a little scarring for your children and turn them into entertainment for the world. That's a wonderful advantage of my job."

Last month, Levitan and co-creator Chris Lloyd watched "Family" score its fourth outstanding-com-

edy Emmy, meaning the series is one top-category statuette away from tying the all-time winner "Frasier," on which Lloyd served as show runner for eight years.

"Of course, I don't ever want to compare the two shows, or set one against the other," Lloyd said. "But it's a blessed place for me to find myself." □

Loretta Lynn delays 2 shows, cites exhaustion

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Country music legend Loretta Lynn is postponing two shows in Iowa because of exhaustion.

A statement from Lynn's representative on the singer's website says the 81-year-old started feeling poorly midway through her three-week tour and is taking some time off to be treated.

The statement says Lynn,

who just finished a Canadian tour, is rescheduling both Iowa shows.

Last year, the singer postponed two shows to undergo more physical therapy following total knee replacement surgery.

Lynn was born in the coalfields of eastern Kentucky and chronicled her life in an autobiography and song, both titled "Coal Miner's Daughter." □

The Jonas Brothers announce breakup

NEW YORK (AP) — The Jonas Brothers are disbanding.

Nick, Joe and Kevin announced Tuesday they're ending their highly successful run. The news comes after the brothers abruptly canceled their tour over creative differences earlier this month. The breakup was first reported by People magazine. Publicist Jesse Derris confirmed the news and said no other details were available. The brothers told People the breakup was unanimous and came after Nick Jonas told his brothers in a meeting earlier this month that he felt "trapped."

The New Jersey brothers formed the band in 2005 and built a fan base through their association with the Disney Channel. □



This June 19, 2009 file photo shows musicians, from left, Nick Jonas, Joe Jonas, and Kevin Jonas of the music group The Jonas Brothers on the NBC "Today" television program in New York.

Associated Press



FILE - This June 16, 2010 file photo shows "Entourage" cast members, from left, Kevin Dillon, Jeremy Piven, Kevin Connolly, Jerry Ferrara and Adrian Grenier pose together at the premiere of the seventh season of the HBO series in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Hug it out: Creator says 'Entourage' movie is a go

NEW YORK (AP) — Series creator Doug Ellin says a long-planned "Entourage" movie is finally "a go." Ellin tweeted the news Monday evening, along with a photo of himself and the cast arm-in-arm. Returning to bring the HBO series to the big screen are stars Jeremy Piven, Adrian Grenier, Jesse Ferrara, Kevin Dillon and Kevin Con-

nolly. "Entourage" is a light portrait of Hollywood and young stardom that ran for eight seasons on HBO before ending in 2011. Piven thanked fans on Twitter for their patience. He writes, "Now it's time to go to work!" Warner Bros. is expected to begin production on the film in January. □

Morrissey book to be published on Dec. 3

NEW YORK (AP) — The Morrissey memoir show will soon arrive in the U.S. Penguin Random House announced Tuesday that Morrissey's "Autobiography" has been acquired jointly by three of its imprints. G.P. Putnam's Sons will publish the hardcover Dec. 3, while Penguin Classics will handle the paperback edition at a date to be determined. The book is a No. 1 best-seller in the U.K.

British reviewers have been divided over the book by the Smiths' former frontman. Rock critic Neil McCormack gave "Autobiography" a five-star review in the Daily Telegraph. He compares it favorably to Bob Dylan's "Chronicles." But the Independent's literary editor, Boyd Tonkin,



This Jan. 18, 2013 file photo shows former singer for the 80's alternative rock band The Smiths, Morrissey, performing at the Sovereign Performing Arts Center in Reading, Pa.

Associated Press

writes that he tired of Morrissey's "droning narcissism" and "puerile litany of grievances." □



Actor Matthew McConaughey poses for a portrait at the Four Seasons Hotel on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2013 in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

McConaughey 'unabashed' in 'Dallas Buyers Club'

JESSICA HERNDON

AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In 1986, Texan Ron Woodroof was diagnosed with HIV and given 30 days to live. When receiving the news, the rodeo-lover argued with the doctor, saying only homosexuals got such a disease-and he was as straight as they came. Matthew McConaughey, as Woodroof in the based-on-a-true-story "Dallas Buyers Club," out this Friday, is magnificently cringe-worthy as this very scene plays out in the film.

"We had to go all the way unabashed with that," said McConaughey in a recent interview to promote the film. "I would go as far as I could with the stuff that Ron thought, which was the stuff that made people go 'You bigot, racist.'"

But the beauty of Woodroof's story, and McConaughey's ability to portray him, is in its arc: Following his diagnosis, Woodroof illegally imported drugs from other countries to counteract the effects of HIV and AIDS because of the lack of treatments in the U.S. approved by the Food and Drug Administration. He

also became friends and business partners with a transgender named Rayon, played by Jared Leto. To immerse himself in this role, McConaughey read Woodroof's diary and listened to hours of taped conversations between Woodroof and "Dallas Buyers Club" screenwriter Craig Borten.

"I saw a guy who was a dreamer and who was lonely, isolated, and who could never finish anything," said McConaughey. "He was aimless and the irony is it took him having HIV to help him find a goal."

To look the part of the gaunt Woodroof, McConaughey lost over 45 pounds. The first time the actor saw himself on-screen, he thought, "'Whoa, you look like a reptile, man.' I didn't feel like I was watching me."

But sacrificing his good looks for the role "was not a huge concern," said the 43-year-old. "There is something valuable to not being able to use certain things that may be a strength. You use other instruments." While losing the weight, the actor said his family's reaction was subtle. "They saw me every day. But there

was one day when Vidy goes 'Why is your neck like a giraffe?'" he added with a chuckle, remembering his 3-year-old daughter's reaction to his shrinking physique.

Wife Camilla Alves "helped me stay controlled," added McConaughey of his minimalist diet, which included meals like a 5 oz. piece of fish and a cup of vegetables. "But I found some sort of sick pleasure in doing all the cooking. I also needed less sleep and my memory was incredibly sharp."

But McConaughey was soon back to his 182-pound frame to play a finance fast-talker in Martin Scorsese's upcoming "The Wolf of Wall Street" and a detective in the HBO series "True Detective," premiering in January.

Grittier roles, including 2011's "Killer Joe," and 2012's "The Paperboy" and "Mud," demonstrate McConaughey's versatility, and there's talk "Dallas Buyers Club" could score him an Oscar nomination. "I'm very excited about that possibility," he said. "I feel that it is more than fair to judge art. If that happened that's wonderful." □

Preschools Or Prisons?



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF
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Congress is often compared to pre-K, which seems defamatory of small children. But the similarities also offer hope, because an initiative that should be on the top of the national agenda has less to do with the sequester than with the ABCs and Big Bird. Growing mountains of research suggest that the best way to address American economic inequality, poverty and crime is - you guessed it! - early education programs, including coaching of parents who want help. It's not a magic wand, but it's the best tool we have to break cycles of poverty.

President Barack Obama called in his State of the Union address for such a national initiative, but it hasn't gained traction. Obama himself hasn't campaigned enough for it, yet there's still a reed of hope.

One reason is that this is one of those rare initiatives that polls well across the spectrum, with support from 84 percent of Democrats and 60 percent of Republicans in a recent national survey. And even if the program stalls in Washington, states and localities are moving ahead - from San Antonio to Michigan. Colorado voters will decide next month on a much-watched ballot measure to bolster education spending, including in preschool, and a ballot measure in Memphis would expand preschool as well.

"There's this magical opportunity" now to get a national early education program in America, Education Secretary Arne Duncan told me. He says he's optimistic that members of Congress will introduce a bipartisan bill for such a plan this year.

"When you think how you make change for the next 30 years, this is arguably at the top of my list," Duncan said. "It can literally transform the life chances of children, and strengthen families in important ways."

Whether it happens through congressional action or is locally led, this may be the best chance America has had to broaden early programs since 1971, when Congress approved such a program but President Richard Nixon vetoed it.

The massive evidence base for early education grew a bit more with a major new study from Stanford University noting

that achievement gaps begin as early as 18 months. Then at 2 years old, there's a six-month achievement gap. By age 5, it can be a two-year gap. Poor kids start so far behind when school begins that they never catch up - especially because they regress each summer.

One problem is straightforward. Poorer kids are more likely to have a single teenage mom who is stressed out, who was herself raised in an authoritarian style that she mimics, and who, as a result, doesn't chatter much with the child.

Yet help these parents, and they do much better. Some of the most astonishing research in poverty-fighting methods comes from the success of programs to coach at-risk parents - and these, too, are part of Obama's early education program. "Early education" doesn't just mean prekindergarten for 4-year-olds, but embraces a plan covering infants to 5-year-olds.

The earliest interventions, and maybe the most important, are home visitation programs like Nurse-Family Partnership. It begins working with at-risk moms during pregnancy, with a nurse making regular visits to offer basic support and guidance: don't drink or smoke while pregnant; don't take heroin or cocaine. After birth, the coach offers help with managing stress, breast-feeding and diapers, while encouraging chatting to the child and reading aloud.

These interventions are cheap and end at age 2. Yet, in randomized controlled trials, the gold standard of evaluation, there was a 59 percent reduction in child arrests at age 15 among those who had gone through the program.

Something similar happens with good pre-K programs. Critics have noted that with programs like Head Start, there are early educational gains that then fade by second or third grade. That's true, and that's disappointing. Yet, in recent years, long-term follow-ups have shown that while the educational advantages of Head Start might fade, there are "life skill" gains that don't. A rigorous study by David Deming of Harvard, for example, found that Head Start graduates were less likely to repeat grades or be diagnosed with a learning disability, and more likely to graduate from high school and attend college. Look, we'll have to confront the pathologies of poverty at some point. We can deal with them cheaply at the front end, in infancy. Or we can wait and jail a troubled adolescent at the tail end. To some extent, we face a choice between investing in preschools or in prisons. We just might have a rare chance in the next couple of months to take steps toward such a landmark early education program in America. But children can't vote, and they have no highly paid lobbyists - so it'll happen only if we the public speak up. □



But What If Obamacare Works?



ROSS DOUTHAT
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In last week's column, I wrote about what might happen if the new health care law's website remained a festering technological sore for months to come. (The answer: nothing good.) But it's still more likely that HealthCare.gov will be fixed by Thanksgiving and millions of Americans will (finally) be able to get a real look at what Obamacare is selling them. What will they find? One way to understand what is being offered is to think in terms of three "mores." Insurance à la Obamacare will be more expensive, more subsidized and more comprehensive than what was previously available on the individual market.

This may not be obvious if you're struggling to log on to HealthCare.gov. But some of the state-level exchange websites are working well enough to enable illuminating window shopping. Take the exchange in my native state, Connecticut. There the "more expensive" part of the new regime is readily apparent. If you look at Connecticut insurance prices for 2013 - that is, pre-Obamacare - on the online clearinghouse eHealthInsurance, monthly premiums for a 30-year-old in good health can start below \$100, and under \$300 for a healthy 60-year-old. On the state's new Obamacare-compliant health care exchange, by contrast, nothing is that cheap. The lowest priced ("bronze") plan for a 30-year-old Connecticut resident has premiums starting at \$224 a month; for a 60-year-old, the cheapest plan starts at \$537. These premium increases, however, don't tell the whole story, because there are subsi-

dies, which the Connecticut exchange helpfully calculates as well. If our hypothetical 30-year-old makes \$30,000 a year, for instance, he or she would be eligible for credits that lower the actual cost of the cheapest plan to \$115 a month. A hypothetical 60-year-old making \$30,000 would see the cost of the cheapest bronze plan fall to zero. Overall, the premium increases only really bite as subsidies phase out - at incomes above \$45,000, or about \$62,000 for a family of four.

They bite, in part, because insurance companies now have to take customers with pre-existing conditions, which drives everyone's rates up. But they also bite because buyers are getting more insurance than the older system's cheapest plans offered. Take those low-cost 2013 plans I mentioned above. A typical one - teased at \$269 a month for a nonsmoking 60-year-old Connecticut man - comes with a \$5,000 deductible, an annual out-of-pocket limit of \$12,500, and all kinds of copays and coverage restrictions. With some grandfathered exceptions, Obamacare makes those kinds of plans illegal. The out-of-pocket limit for individuals is capped at \$6,500 a year, preventive services are fully covered, and various "essential benefits" as well.

If we ever get beyond the follies of HealthCare.gov, the politics of the rollout will probably be defined by how (and how vocally) middle-class Americans just above the subsidy threshold react to this "pay more, get more, subsidize other people" deal.

Some of them will be buying for the first time, spurred by the mandate's penalties; many others will be shopping for a new plan because their previous ones no longer meet Obamacare's requirements. Will they be grateful for more comprehensive coverage, even though it's being forced on them and has higher premiums attached? Or will they feel they were misled by the president's

"if you like your insurance plan, you will keep it" rhetoric, and drive a further backlash against the law in 2014 and beyond? Where the underlying policy debate is concerned, meanwhile, what you think about the three "mores" basically determines whether you belong on the left or on the right. To liberals, more is simply better, and the disappearing low-cost plans deserve to vanish, because they left purchasers potentially exposed to way too much financial risk. (Even the new bronze plans are really too stingy in this view - which is probably why, if you qualify for subsidies, the Connecticut Web site deliberately nudges you toward the pricier silver plans.)

Conservatives agree that these cheaper plans create more risk. But they also create a sensitivity to price - and with it, a curb on cost growth - that's rare in a system where third-party payment has made prices opaque, arbitrary and inflated. And for a society that pretty clearly spends far too much on health care, sticking with catastrophic coverage frees up money - thousands for individuals and families, billions for the government - to spend on something other than the insurance-medical complex. Yes, for some that money would ultimately get eaten up, and then some, by unexpected bills. But for others it might be money saved for retirement, money that pays for child care, money used to hire a contractor or buy a house. And for the public sector, it would be money for all the priorities - liberal as well as conservative - that are being undercut by rising health care costs.

This is why the law's critics believe Obamacare might be a long-term failure even if it survives its launch troubles and works on its own terms for a while. It's not about the good things the reform delivers: Those are real enough. It's about whether there are too many other goods, for too many people, that the law's three "mores" end up crowding out. □

Monthlong Chase Around New York City For Banksy

CARA BUCKLEY

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NEW YORK - New Yorkers have stolen it, painted over it, urinated on it, tagged it, charged for it, venerated it, fought about it, sneered at it, guarded it, sold it to the highest bidder and chased it to corners of the city that they had heretofore never been. It has been almost a month since the very famous, presumably rich and remarkably still anonymous British street artist and trickster Banksy began making good on his word to spend October festooning the streets of New York City with his art.

Nearly every day, as part of what he called his "residency," Banksy has posted to his website and Instagram a photo of a new piece - a wry scrawl, a cheeky silhouette, a cartoony sculpture, an installation - and identified its location by neighborhood. He has wended through all five boroughs with the project, titled "Better Out Than In" - although Staten Island got only one Banksy, and it was a video. As soon as a post goes up, little armies of people set out to find it - Banksy's work sells for hundreds of thousands of dollars, and here it was hanging free - twittering in triumph when they do.

Borough by borough, and sometimes neighborhood by neighborhood, reactions differed, revealing a facet of New York character - perhaps not so homogeneous after all - every time a Banksy popped up. In a way, it took this Englishman to remind New Yorkers that parts of our city remain distinct as foreign lands.

In the Brooklyn neighborhood of East New York, local residents charged viewers \$20 for a peek of a stenciled beaver. In Manhattan's Tribeca neighborhood, at a stencil of the World Trade Center towers, people laid flowers. In Hell's Kitchen, exotic dancers preened before it. A piece on the preservationist-friendly Upper West Side was quickly sealed behind plexiglass. On the Lower East Side, people ripped off

the doors of a painted car. In Queens and in Brooklyn, images were swiftly bombed by taggers: local street artists incensed that an Englishman had trod on their turf.

Mike Ellyson, 33, an artist who lives in Brooklyn's East Williamsburg area, said he watched in awe a few days ago as a worker began scrubbing a Banksy tag off a Laundromat wall, causing onlookers to yell, imploring him to stop.

"I think it's amazing - peo-

ple whom have garnered the fame enjoyed by Banksy.

"I think he's a fraud," said Tiffon Meares, 31, a chef from Williamsburg, as he wandered past the Banksy stencil of the twin towers in a Tribeca alleyway this past weekend. "My friends believe it is a ploy to get New York cool again."

Meares conceded that some of Banksy's pieces were "poignant," but he expressed disdain for Banksy's followers, some of whom he said sat in pigeon

wouldn't come here if this wasn't here."

After the crowds drifted away, the beaver's face was scoured off and the piece was all but forgotten. Not so for East Williamsburg, where a tagger was tackled by a building manager after he scrawled over Banksy's image of geishas on a bridge. The building's owners, one of whom wrote about the adventure, hired security guards and later installed plexiglass and a roll-down gate, which is now

lighted, Diaz likened Banksy to a "contemporary day Picasso."

Then Banksy unveiled his second Bronx offering: a stencil of a schoolboy spray-painting the words "Ghetto 4 Life" as a butler proffered a tray of paint cans. Furious, Diaz fired off a statement saying the word "ghetto" was a slur, and wagging a finger at Banksy for perpetuating "outdated negative stereotypes."

Yet the building's owners



A sphinx by the anonymous British street artist Banksy in the Queens borough of New York. A little army of fans has been scurrying to wherever in New York City Banksy has just placed his almost daily graffiti and street art.

(Michael Nagle/The New York Times)

ple fighting over a Laundromat," Ellyson said.

Though Banksy works have shown up on private buildings, the Police Department has gotten no official complaints, a spokesman said, adding that apprehension was difficult because "we don't know who Banksy is, if he exists at all." Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's tut-tut response that graffiti was "a sign of decay and loss of control" only gave the project more of a boost.

The project has also stirred up animosity. This city has bred some serious street artists, after all, few of

droppings to pose for photos alongside the Tribeca piece, even after a pug had relieved itself on the wall.

Banksy fans lured to hard-bitten East New York, where many live below the poverty line, were taken aback when they encountered a group of tetchy residents, who had shielded the little graffiti beaver with cardboard and were demanding pay per view.

"We're trying to get some bread - this is my hood," one man said agitatedly, his response caught on video, before adding, no doubt accurately, "Y'all

open daily on a viewing schedule for the dozens of people stopping by.

"A lot of people come to the neighborhood," said the manager, Jose Goya, 33. "Now we have something to show them. Something nice."

Ruben Diaz Jr., the Bronx borough president, was also thrilled by the Banksy-generated attention - at least at first. In mid-October, Banksy graced the South Bronx with a fiberglass replica of an ill-tempered Ronald McDonald watching as a dirty ragamuffin, played by an actual human, shined his outsize shoes. De-

coed about the work and, determined to protect it, first hired security guards to watch over it and then set a thick sheet of glass over it, and a roll-down gate.

All of which struck several residents of the Bronx, birthplace and home to famously dazzling street art, as downright absurd.

"You go around the Bronx and there are pieces grander than that, and no one goes over them because they got respect," said Miguel Delgado, 30, a chef who lives in the neighborhood. "They don't respect him because he's not from here." □